



SANGAT

SINDHI ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

VOL. XX, No. III & IV

FALL-WINTER 2004

SANA elects new EC

Sindhi Association of North America (SANA) elected a new Executive Council for next two years in the election held in the last quarter of year 2004. In an election that generated great interest and excitement in the membership, Mr. Aziz Narejo was elected as president by securing 88% of the votes.

The other candidates elected are: Mr. Jamil Daudi as Vice President and Mr. Taj Nizamani as Joint Secretary.

The Greater Toronto Area Chapter witnessed the closest ever contest where Mr. Mashhood Qazi was elected with a majority of only one vote.

Earlier some candidates were declared elected unopposed. They are:

Mrs. Surriya Panhwer as Vice President, Women Affairs

Mr. Kohsher Ahmed as General Secretary

Mr. Sarfraz Memon as Information Secretary

Mr. Talat M. Talpur as Treasurer

Mr. Khalid Channa as Regional Secretary, Zone 1

Mr. Ghulam Mohiuddin Morai as Regional Secretary, Zone 2

Mr. Saleem Langha as Regional Secretary, Zone 4

The Election Commission didn't receive any nomination papers for the position of the Regional Secretary Zone 3. That position will be filled according to the organization byelaws.

SANA, a democratic and representative organization of Sindhis living in North



America, holds elections every two years to elect new leadership. The main thing of the last election was the active participation of the Greater Toronto Area Chapter. It is hoped that the chapter will play an important role in the organization.

The new E.C. has thanked the membership for their confidence and has pledged to strengthen the organization and the community living in USA and Canada.

The three-member SANA election committee 2004 comprised Mr. Zafar Agha as its head and Mr. Tashfeen Brohi and Mr. Waheed Hassan Patoli as its members. The general membership of SANA and the majority of the candidates acclaimed the conduct of the election commission and expressed their satisfaction and gratitude for holding a transparent and a free and fair election.

The election committee in a statement said it mailed 514 election ballots to SANA members in USA and Canada, and received 427 marked ballots, which makes the turnaround at 83%.

The statement said that all the election committee members performed the last phase of the election process on 14th December as they opened the envelopes, counted the ballots and announced the results. The Election Commissioner expressed thanks to commission members for their cooperation.

21st SANA Convention in Washington, DC

The three-day 21st Annual SANA Convention is to be held in Washington, DC on July 1-3, 2005. The local SANA chapter has formed an organizing committee to oversee the arrangements for the Convention. The head of the committee, Mr. Sarfraz Memon told 'Sangat' that arrangements were being finalized and details would soon be announced on the sanalist. He said all out efforts would be made to organize a memorable Convention this year.

He expected the forthcoming Convention to have a large attendance. He requested all the people intending to participate in the Convention to make travel plans in advance and should have 2-3 days before or after the Convention so that they can visit some of the attractions that the US capital offers to visitors. He said that an agreement has been signed with the Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center - Tyson's Corner to host the Convention. More details on back page.

Arrangements are being made to invite some young singers from Sindh to perform at the Convention's music program. A list of invited guest speakers is also being finalized. The details would soon be announced on the Sanalist.

SANA EC is working hard to make the Convention more attractive and meaningful. It has requested all the intending participants to make early plans to attend the convention, as it will give them an opportunity to live and witness Sindhi culture.

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Please come forward and get involved

We always talk of serving our community and building a strong organization. But do we realize that it is **'we'** and **'us'** who have **to do it too?** Nobody else would do it for us. Or would any?

Dear friends, it is high time to translate words into reality. Please ask yourself what can each of us do for our community and our organization?

To move ahead in an organized way, we have to form some committees and distribute work among ourselves. Please see where you fit. What committee/s you can work with.

Here is a list of committees to be formed:

1. Membership Committee
2. Education Committee
3. Human Rights Committee (already announced)
4. Finance/Fund-raising Committee
5. Byelaws Committee
6. Convention Committee
7. Internet and Web Committee
8. Publications Committee
9. Membership Grievances Committee
10. Business Development/Advisory Committee
11. Employment Information Committee
12. Youth/Future Leadership Building Committee
13. Arts, Literature, Cultural Committee
14. Inter/Intra Community Relations Committee

Please let us know of your choice or if you have any other ideas about the kind of **work you can do.**

We will remain where we are if none would come forward and help.

Houston Convention

The 20th Annual Convention of Sindhi Association of North America (SANA) successfully took place from July 2 to July 5, 2004 in Houston, Texas. The venue of the convention was the Westin Galleria hotel, located in the Galleria Shopping Mall located in uptown Houston. The three-day convention was packed with a variety of sessions and activities. The organizers had done a wonderful job to ensure every one's comfort and smooth flow of events.

The local organizing committee comprised of Mr. Jamil Daudi (chairperson), Mr. Zafar and Mrs. Zeb Agha, Mr. Bashir Shaikh, Mr. Waheed Patoli, Mr. Aamir Memon, Mr. Mazhar Memon, Mr. Ghulam Mohiuddin Memon, Mr. Talat and Mrs. Nicki Talpur, Mr. Sohail Soomro, Mr. Altaf Soomro, Mr. Tashfeen and Mrs. Samar Brohi, Mr. Majid Laghari, Mr. Taj Nizamani, Mr. Shafiq Nizamani, Mr. Salman Nizamani, Mr. Saeed Chang and Mr. Faisal Lashari. They did a wonderful job ensuring every one's comfort and offering an unforgettable hospitality of Sindh and Texas. Indeed it was one of the most memorable Sindhi events that will be remembered by all who attended.

Friday, July 2, 2004: Registration & SANA EC/AC Meeting

Many of the attendees had arrived on the

evening of Friday, July 2 and completed their registration in the majestic lobby of the convention facility. The members of the SANA Executive Council (EC) and the Advisory Committee (AC) met late in the evening to go over the convention arrangements and other association matters.

Saturday, July 3, 2004: SANA General Body Meeting (9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon)

The SANA General Body meeting started around 9:30 AM with a prayer-poem from Shah Abdul Bhattai, which was beautifully rendered by Dr. Shoukat Ansari. Mr. Zafar Agha, co-chair of Local Organizing Committee, remembered the recent untimely deaths in the North American Sindhi community that followed a two-minute silence in their memory. In his address, Mr. Zafar Agha welcomed every one and thanked all members of the local organizing committee and the Houston's Sindhi community, who had donated \$16,000 to cover part of the convention expenses. He invited the current members of the SANA Executive Council (EC) to take their chairs at the stage.

Mr. Kohsher Ahmed (SANA Information Secretary) was the first office bearer to present his report. He welcomed every one and thanked local members for their efforts and hard work in organizing the convention. Among the achievements of the present EC, he cited SANA Web site, regular publication of 'Sangat' newsletter, and joining hands with other Sindhi organizations to lobby for Sindh and Sindhis.



He appealed every one to provide help to make SANA stronger and support efforts to alleviate plight of Sindhis.

The SANA Treasurer Dr. Shoukat Ansari provided highlights from an un-audited report as follows:

Year/members/Donations/Reg. Fees/
Expenses/Surplus/deficit
2002/ 276/\$13,000 + 7,000*/ \$ 12,500/
\$30,000/\$ 2,500
2003/296/ \$10,000/\$15,000/\$28,000/- \$
3,000
2004/350 (E)/ \$16,000 + TBD/\$15,000
(E)/\$40,000 (E)/TBD

(* Company donations (E) Estimated)

He said that at the present, association had about \$ 49,000 in bank accounts. Out of which, in accordance with the SANA by-laws, \$36,000 was set aside for a permanent SANA office and could not be spent on other activities unless the association by-laws are changed.

Mr. Khalid Memon (Regional Secretary, Mid-West - Zone III) pledged to increase SANA membership in the mid-West area as several new Sindhi families have moved there. He said so far the chapter had organized two get-togethers. He said soon they would initiate an education project.

Mr. Khalid Channa (Regional Secretary East Coast - Zone I) briefed attendees about the SANA activities in the East Coast. He briefed on several picnics, get-togethers and family gatherings. He also talked about the local New York members joining other Sindhi organizations in the protest in front of the United Nations Building against mega water projects on the Indus River during General Musharraf's visit.

Mr. Jaffar Shah (Regional Secretary West Coast - Zone II) talked about his efforts to contact many SANA members and his efforts to maintain the SANA directory up-to-date.

Mr. Sarfraz Abbasi (Regional Secretary South - Zone IV) thanked Mr. Jamil Daudi and Mr. Zafar Agha for their hard work in organizing the 2004 SANA convention and was proud about the fact that the local chapter had collected \$16,000 towards the convention expenses.



He mentioned several well-attended gatherings of local Sindhis that have helped community members to be close to each other.

Mr. Sajjad Siddiqui (Vice President/acting President SANA) welcomed every one and thanked the local organizing committee for the superb convention arrangements. He proudly mentioned that SANA had achieved an important milestone as it completed twenty years of its existence and congratulated every one from the founding members to the current membership for the successes of SANA in the last two decades. He urged every one to help in increasing membership and maximize participation in the upcoming SANA elections.

Resolutions:

After the speeches by the SANA EC members, Mr. Aziz Narejo came to the podium and presented SANA resolutions. As he proposed each resolution, the attendees discussed the resolution, sometimes tabled amendments, and finally voted.

Questions and answers:

During ancillary discussions, the following two questions were raised that led to discussions. A synopsis of those discussions is as follows:

Why SANA does not contact North American Hindu Sindhi organizations for cultural cooperation?

In the past SANA has tried several times but it appears that there is some

reluctance on both parties due to lack of confidence and trust. Where as, SANA is a secular organization and open to all Sindhis, many of the Sindhi Hindu organizations have some religious activities as well. Other reality is that some of SANA members erroneously assume that SANA is an organization of only Sindh-based Sindhis and/or want to limit SANA membership only to Sindh-based Sindhis.

However, there are signs of progress as Sindhis on both sides now see other communities (Urdu speaking and Punjabis) conducting joint gatherings and working on common issues. We are hopeful that sooner than later all Sindhis will be eager to work together for the preservation and advancement of language and culture.

What is the status of SANA educational program established in the memory of Dr. Feroz Ahmed (FAME)?

A four-member committee including Mr. Zafar Agha, Mr. Nawaz Ali Bhutto, Mr. Ghulam Mohiuddin, and Mr. Ghulam Nabi Morai is diligently working to organize activities. A detailed status report is included in this newsletter.

Kids Corner (3 PM to 4:30 PM):

This session was attended by several Sindhi youth where Sindhi youngsters intermingled to make new or renewed their friendships. Mr. Zafar Agha moderated the session and he took the kids on a journey through Sindh's



history. Most of the youths were quite pleased with the session, as according to some the session was quite informative and not too long.

Guest Speakers (2:15 PM to 4:30 PM):

A strong group of 150 persons attended this very informative and interesting session addressed by two American scholars.

Dr. Allen Keith is a Secretary General of World Health Association and associated with many international organizations active in education, global health, and medical field. He has published a book "Politics of Sindh and Muslim Identity in Pakistan - 1907-1940) and visited Mr. G.M. Syed in his hometown Sann several years ago. He knows Hindi, Urdu and other Indo-Pakistani languages.

He started his address by asking audience several questions like "What does Sindhi mean to you? What does it represent to you? What does being Sindhi means to your children? Without waiting for the answers from audience, he went ahead and explained the peaceful nature of Sindhi folks, they have rich history, they have selfless culture, and strong identity. He added that he will never forget his visit to Sindh and will always cherish those memories. He said: "There is something unique about Sindhis, that you just don't find in other Pakistani compatriots.

"When you meet Sindhis, they always want to talk about heritage and civilization. In contrast, the people of

Punjab are more interested about places and features of their province." Talking about his book, he mentioned that Sindh's decision to join Pakistan was strongly influenced by the success of Sindhi Muslim politicians in separating from Bombay. This troubled the Hindu Sindhi politicians and the two sides were never able to fully bridge that gap after that. He said he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to do research mainly about who were leaders of the movement to create Pakistan and what contributions Sindhi leaders made in creating Pakistan.

During his research, he met several English scholars (Francis Woody, Hugh Dow, and others) and traveled to Sindh, where he met Hatem Alvi, two Rashdi brothers, and other scholars and leaders. During that visit, at the invitation of G. M. Syed, he went to Sann and stayed with him for a few days while he (Syed) was under house arrest. He recited a very interesting story that while Mr. G. M. Syed was showing his library, he noticed several areas in bookshelves empty. Upon his inquiry, Mr. Syed said that because he was not sure about the next actions of the government, he had arranged to store some of the sensitive and important papers buried underground to be opened only after his death. He added, he recently asked Mr. G. M. Syed's grandson about this and was surprised to learn that he had not heard anything about that.

DR. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer is a professor of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin and a co-director of Harappa project. He made a slide presentation titled "Sindh and the Indus

Valley Civilization: Textile and Ornament Traditions". He has lived in India for 18 years and speaks Hindi, Sindhi, and Urdu very fluently. Through the story of textile and ornaments found at Mohen-jodaro and Harappa, he demonstrated the rich culture and heritage of Indus Valley Civilization. He said that Sindh was far more advanced center in textile and ornament technologies than other civilizations of those days including Europe.

Sindh was one of the most important trading centers of the world. Tracing the roots of the Indus River, he said in old days there were actually two rivers flowing in the Indus valley - one was called Sindhu and other the Nara River and Indus valley's fertile and green regions were twice as large as they are today.

He added that some of the old methods for making garments and ornaments are still practiced by "Kanbiri" or "Jogis". The region was an important source of quality wool and silk and production of coloring dyes extracted from plants (for example, indigo plant). The trade practices and advanced manufacturing methods made Sindh a very large importer of raw materials and exporter of finished goods. The people of Indus valley had a common and uniform weighing system. In contrast in most other parts of the world, individual cities had their own weighing systems making inter-regional trade rather difficult.

He added there was no evidence of people killing people, something akin to the Sufi thinking prevalent in present day Sindh. He said that difference between "culture" and "Civilization" is that a civilization generally is made up of many cultures. For example, various provinces of present-day Pakistan belong to the ancient Indus Valley Civilization and yet each province has own flavor of culture.

Answering to a question about whether Indus Valley was composed of single nation or many nations, he replied that in old days the concept of "nation" was not the same as today. The nations as defined within the confines of geographic-political boundaries were limited to very small regions. The modern concept of a "nation" developed as small regions got merged or absorbed into larger entities.

Dinner followed by music program (7 PM to 12:00 AM)

The local Sindhis of Houston had arranged a delicious dinner at a near-by Mediterranean restaurant. Although, the restaurant was less than quarter of mile away from the hotel, the gracious hosts organized an army of volunteers to transport guests. The dinner was delicious and the musical program that followed later at the hotel was also excellent.

Sunday, July 4, 2004: Medical & Business Seminars (10:00 Am -11:00 AM):

Dr. Aijaz Turk moderated the medical seminar segment. In addition to him, Dr. Sattar Shaikh and Dr. Rafat Ansari made formal and informal presentations. A general public oriented lecture on the causes and preventative measures was made about coronary diseases, diabetics, various forms of cancer, Hepatitis and other gastroenteritis diseases. To stop the alarming rates of lung cancer in developing countries, the need to start "stop smoking" campaigns was emphasized. The increasing rates of Hepatitis C and Tuberculosis in Pakistan were connected to lack of clean drinking water and inadequate health facilities.

Mr. Farooq Soomro made a business presentation on his company's Sindh-based outsourcing services including transcribing and call center available to medical practitioners and facilities.

Mr. Naim Memon moderated the "Business" segment seminar. Ms Carmen Alvarez talked about the Harris county medical help services available to women, infants, and children who live in the County. Mr. Baqar Shah made a presentation titled "Creating Value and Sustainable Competitive Advantage". He talked about how to gain competitive advantage by knowing your competitor and your customer.

Ladies program (12:30 PM - 2 PM):

In the session, apart from talking about their interests, Mrs. Zeb Agha tabled some serious issues such as "Karo Kari" that attracted some serious discussion. Included in this session was a beautiful song sung by Mrs. Roshan Ara Talpur. It

was a vivid reminder of Mai Bhagi and Rubina Quraishi era. (Source: Ms Nazia Junejo's posting)

Brainstorming Session (2:15 PM - 4 PM and 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM)

The theme of the session was "what can North American Sindhis do to alleviate the plight of Sindhis" and was moderated by Mr. Khalid Hashmani. He and Ms Nazia Junejo planned it. Although only 25-30 participants were expected, more than 70 persons turned out for this often-heated session.

After almost three hours of discussion, where sometimes tempers flew and out-of-control situations occurred, some recommendations were short-listed by the participants.

The session created a working team to investigate and recommend a plan for supporting a new or existing school at the village level. Mr. Sarfraz Abbasi, who is already committed to start a new school in his village, will act as a chair. Other members include Mr. Shoukat Ali Bhangar, Ms Nazia Junejo, Ms Noorunnisa Ghanghro and Mr. Khalid Hashmani.

Adabi Session (4 PM - 5 PM)

The Adabi (literary) session was presided over by Dr. Fahmida Hussain, Director of Shah Latif Chair at the Karachi University. A prominent short story writer Mr. Mushtaq Shoro was the chief guest and Mr. Aziz Narejo moderated the session.

Dr. Fahmida spoke on the poetry of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai. Mr. Shoro presented a brief review of the inception, development and progress of short story in Sindh.

Ms Noorunnisa Ghanghro spoke on the women writers in Sindhi literature.

Annual Banquet & Musical Evening (7 PM - 1 AM):

The dinner and music arrangements were truly great. There were in excess of 400 people in the hall making it the most attended event of the convention. A 10-course dinner with "Indo-Pakistan" cuisine was delicious. Most audience enjoyed food while a local band played soft "desi" songs and instruments. The dinner was followed by fabulous musical evening with talented singers. It was quite touching to find out that Mr. Ghulam Nabi Morai and Ms. Shazia Khushk came from Sindh to perform for the sake of their solidarity with North American Sindhis without any monetary incentives.

They and some local talent enthralled the audience with beautiful music. Several prominent local personalities addressed the audience. The chair of the local organizing committee also announced that they had invited representative of the local Sindhi Hindu organizations and welcomed their presence.

Several Sindhi school students were recognized for their academic achievement and received impressive awards. To celebrate 20th anniversary of SANA, a massive cake, fit to feed 400 - 500 guests, was brought to the hall.



The honor of cutting the cake was bestowed on Dr. Ali Mohammad Ansari, founding members (Altaf Memon and Khalid Hashmani), past President (Mazhar Lakho) and current acting President (Sajjad Siddiqui).

Conclusion: There was almost universal agreement that this was one of the best organized and one of the most memorable SANA conventions. The Houston Sindhis had set a bar that every one is going to be hard pressed to beat.

By Khalid Hashmani

Resolutions:

Sindhi Association of North America, SANA, held its 2-day 20th Annual Convention in Houston, TX July 3-5. It adopted following resolutions unanimously:

Unadulterated Democracy: SANA strongly feels that Pakistan is being ruled under a dictatorial, One-Unit regime where the aspirations of people have been ignored and a large population is completely disenfranchised. In the present set up non-representative governments have been imposed at the Center and in Sindh. SANA demands an end to the controlled democracy in the country, abolition of National Security Council and a stop to the intervention in the electoral and other civilian matters by the army, its intelligence agencies and Rangers. It is resolved that only a true democracy can stabilize the situation in Pakistan and solve the problems facing the country.

Water Issue: SANA expresses grave concern over the water crisis in Sindh where some areas are facing up to 85 percent shortage as admitted by Sindh irrigation department officials in a briefing to provincial assembly members recently. It is reported that the irrigated land has been reduced by about 50 percent in the province. It is a colossal setback to the province's economy where agriculture is the major source of livelihood. Water shortage has played havoc to the human and animal lives and the eco system in the province. There is an acute shortage of water even for drinking purpose.

The Convention resolves that the construction of any new dams on the Indus River and the completion of the Greater Thal Canal would prove death warrants to the agriculture in Sindh. The Convention holds the federal government, the Indus River System Authority, IRSA, Wapda and a powerful lobby in the upper riparian province directly responsible for the crisis. The Convention demands that:

A) The GTC project should be stopped forthwith.

B) Water should be distributed among the provinces according to the 1945 Sindh-Punjab Agreement.

C) No new mega dams or canals are constructed until an internationally recognized body determines the quantity of water available in the Indus River System and until the lower riparian province gives an expressed assent to any project.

D) Chashma-Jhelum and Taunsa-Panjanad link canals be operated only after due certification from Sindh Government and Mangla be filled only when there is no shortage of water in lower riparian.

E) An impartial study should be conducted immediately to establish the water needs below Kotri Barrage and at least 10 MAF water below the Kotri Barrage must be released immediately.

F) SANA further demands that the people of Sindh should be compensated for the diversion of Sindh share of water and the losses suffered by the people of Sindh due to the water shortage.

Law and order situation: The convention is concerned over dismal law and order situation in Sindh and other parts of Pakistan. SANA condemns the killings of political activists and leaders and religious scholars and other people. SANA also condemns the serious lawlessness in the rural areas of Sindh where tribal leaders, pirs and feudal lords have been given free hand. Dacoities, kidnappings, killings and other serious crimes are on the rise and the lives of the people are in danger as there is no security for common men and women. SANA demands that writ of law is established in the province and the people are

provided complete security to their lives and possessions.

Crimes against women and minorities: SANA is perturbed at the heinous crimes against women in the province where they are wantonly killed on 'karo-kari' or other basis and subjected to demeaning conditions. SANA demands immediate steps to protect women against any crimes and also calls for an end to the horrible 'jirga' system that perpetuates the feudal system, which is enemy of the common men and women. SANA also calls for end to crimes against minorities.

Education: SANA Convention resolves that education system in Sindh has suffered immensely under various governments and has resulted in deterioration of the standard. SANA demands substantial increase in the budget for education, setting up of excellence centers, increasing the standards of education, bringing real increase in the literacy rate and an putting emphasis on girls' education.

NFC: SANA is disappointed at the delay in finalization of the NFC award for the just distribution of financial resources among the provinces. The Convention resolves that NFC award should be based on the revenue collection bases and Sindh should be given 67 percent of the resources corresponding to the contribution of the province to the national exchequer. SANA also calls for the ownership of all the resources to be given to the respective provinces.

Military expenditure: SANA demands that expenditure on military should be drastically cut. The armed forces should be made truly federal institution with just share in all ranks to all the provinces. SANA also resolves that army budget should be scrutinized and discussed in the National Assembly and Senate just as other items are.

Provincial autonomy: SANA resolves that autonomy should be granted to the provinces on the basis of the 1940 resolution. Preservation and promotion of language and culture of all the provinces be guaranteed. All the four languages of the federating units should be declared as national languages of Pakistan.



Employment, Economic development: SANA resolves that all the provinces should get just share in all the employment and the economic development. It must be ensured that the local population gets employment in all the state-owned or private enterprise. The local areas should benefit from the exploitation of natural resources.

Demographic changes: SANA resolves that all the efforts to change demography in Sindh and Balochistan must end. All the illegal aliens must be repatriated and genuine efforts should be made to provide employment/livelihood to all the people of Pakistan in their own areas to check inter-provincial migration.

Allotment of land to Military: SANA resolves that there should be an immediate end to allotment of agriculture, commercial and other lands to army personnel and other outsiders in Sindh and Balochistan. Such allotments should be cancelled and the same be allotted to the local landless people.

Please Sign Sui Rape Case Petition

Rape is the most horrible crime. Being so, it poses a question to the humanity to which one has to respond according to his/her conscious. As it is the defining example of right and wrong and good and bad, one has to take a stand. Either one is on the side of the rapists, their supporters and protectors or on the side of the victim, calling for the justice for her and for so many others who don't have any voice in the regimented societies like that of Pakistan.

SANA Human Rights Committee has initiated a petition calling for justice to the Sui Rape Case victim. Please go to the following link and sign the petition.

<http://www.petitiononline.com/SuiRape/petition.html>

Gang Rape of a Lady Doctor and the cover up by the Pakistan Military regime

Military regimes in Pakistan have a long history of suppressing minority groups and women by violating their basic human rights. The present military

dominated government is acting no different despite its pretensions to the so-called enlightened moderation. It is presently engaged in the most despicable attempts to cover up a rape case in which military personnel are reported to be involved.

According to the news reports, a Captain and his accomplices belonging to the Defense Security Guards gang-raped Dr Shazia Khalid on the night of 2-3 January 2005 at Sui in Balochistan, the Southwestern province of Pakistan. The victim lady doctor was hit, beaten, tortured, threatened to be burned to death and then repeatedly gang-raped. Afterwards she was kept unconscious for three days by giving her tranquilizers so that she could not report or speak about the incident to the police. Later, instead of conducting a medical examination and allowing her to register a case, she was involuntarily moved out of the province and admitted in a psychiatric clinic in Karachi, Sindh.

After a public furor, the Police officers of Dera Bugti pursued the probe into the case and gathered evidence that proved the occurrence of the heinous crime. Pakistan Petroleum Company (PPL), the employer of the doctor however continued to stonewall the investigations under the Army pressure. Documents of Police investigations and the cover-up were made available to the South Asia Tribune, an Internet newspaper, recently. They included a five page detailed report sent on Jan 7, 2005 by the Deputy Superintendent Police, Dera Bugti Circle to the District Nazim of the area, the administrative head.

Khalid Aman, the victim's husband in an interview with daily Dawn on Thursday, Feb 03, stated that he and his family were being pressurized to keep silent on the issue. He further said, "We now feel insecure, we need justice, and want the man responsible to be arrested and punished in accordance with law."

The UN tribunals have recently declared institutional, systematic rape a crime against humanity. The International Criminal Court (ICC) Statute, commonly referred as the Rome Statute, unequivocally declares rape as a crime against humanity under its Article 7, paragraph 2(f).

We therefore appeal the international community and the human rights organizations to condemn the rapists and their supporters. We also request the international community and the human rights organizations including the United Nations Commissioner for Human rights to pressurize Pakistan Military Regime to bring the culprits of this heinous crime against humanity to the courts of law to be punished according to the international Statute and also to provide security to the gang-rape victim lady doctor and her family who need to be relieved of the pain and torture caused by the threats and the denial of justice from the military backed government of Pakistan.

SANA Human Rights Committee

FAME Fund

SANA established an educational fund in 1998 in the memory of Dr. Feroz Ahmed. Through Dr. Feroz Ahmed Memorial Educational Fund (FAME Fund), SANA awards scholarships to some exceptional Sindhi students in their pursuit of undergraduate and post-graduate studies at any reputable university in Pakistan. It awards:

1. Four Scholarships (\$250.00 each) for Undergraduate Studies in Sciences.
2. Two Scholarships (\$500.00 each) for Post-graduate Studies in Social Sciences and Humanities.

SANA FAME Fund Committee

Chairperson - Zafar Agha, Houston, Texas
Member USA- Ghulam Mohiuddin Memon, Houston, Texas
Member Sindh - Ghulam Nabi Morai, Retired Director National Highway Authority Pakistan, Hyderabad Sindh
Member Sindh - Nawaz Ali Bhutto, Director HR Development Center, Elsa Kazi Campus, University of Sindh

Award of scholarships

In addition to the above six scholarships, Mr. Salim Hemani (a relation of Mr. Ghulam Mohiuddin Memon) has generously donated \$1000.00 for awarding 4x\$250.00 scholarships. Accordingly, for eight scholarships

(\$250.00 each) for undergraduate students in Sciences and two Post-graduate scholarships (\$500.00 each), applications for the grant of scholarships were invited through Sanalist, SANA web site, and other associated Sindhi lists and web sites.

Applications were also invited by publication of advertisements in the Daily Kawish, a local newspaper in Sindh. Our team member, Saen Ghulam Nabi Morai used his own resources & time to get the advertisements published twice in the Daily Kawish without any cost to FAME Fund.

In response to the advertisements, 160+ Undergraduate & 7 Postgraduate applications were received. Each application was thoroughly evaluated for eligibility by members of the committee. 15 applications were finalized for Undergraduate & 2 for Postgraduate for 2003-2004 year. The finalized list was sent to Sindh for verification of credentials. After thorough investigation, 8 undergraduate & 2 postgraduate applications were selected for awarding above scholarships for the year 2003-2004.

The recipients of scholarships

Undergraduate:

PMC Nawabshah

1. Ghufrana Memon - PMC Nawabshah
2. Khalida Avesi - PMC Nawabshah

Liaquat Medical College (LMC)
Jamshoro

3. Anwar Hussain Abbasi - LMC
Jamshoro MBBS

Mehran University of Engineering and
Technology (MUET) Jamshoro

4. Rajendar Kumar - MUET Jamshoro
Software dept.
5. Shoaib Memon - MUET Jamshoro---
6. Adnan Akbar - MUET Jamshoro
7. Mian Abdul Mannan Panhyar - MUET
Jamshoro

LUMHS Jamshoro

8. Wajahat Ali - LUMHS Jamshoro

Post Graduate:

Sindh University

1. Miss Irshad Soomro

University of Karachi

2. Kamaluddin Jamro

*Posted by: Mr. Zafar Agha
Chairperson, SANA FAME Fund
Committee.*

Students awarded scholarships

Anwar & Najma Memon Family Trust established by SANA founder member Mr. Anwar Memon, has announced two scholarships of the CDN \$1,000.00 each to the following students:

1. Ms Bilquees Tunio D/O Mr. Mohammad Bukhsh Tunio - Grade 12 Avg. 84% - Toronto District School Board.
2. Mr. Sajid Sarfraz S/O Mr. Sarfraz Gahothi - Grade 12 Avg. 84% - Toronto District School Board.

Abdul Qadir Siddiqui passes away

The well-known jurist and former Law Secretary Mr. Abdul Qadir Siddiqui passed away recently. He was 71. Late Abdul Qadir Siddiqui was uncle to ex-SANA VP Mr. Sajjad Siddiqui, brother in law to SANA Information Secretary Mr. Sarfraz Memon and ex-WB official Mr. Ali Nawaz Memon. His daughter Ms Afshan Soomro and son in law Mr. Iqbal Soomro live in Toronto, Canada.

Dateline Toronto

Mr. Sarfraz Gahothi, General Secretary GTA Chapter has shared the following news with SANA members:

1. Miss Qonain, 2 years old, daughter of Mr. Riaz Khuhro, Treasurer GTA chapter,

was hospitalized recently. She has now fully recovered.

2. Mr. Riaz Khuhro himself had a car accident last month where his car was totally destroyed. Except for accident shock, he was safe and is doing fine.

3. Mr. Iqbal Soomro, while working on a construction site performing routine inspection, fell down in a 20 ft deep trench. He was safe miraculously with the grace of the Almighty who saved him when he fell on starter steel bars embedded in concrete. He was admitted in hospital in emergency. Thank God he is ok and nothing is serious as per Doctor's finding.

4. Mr. Fazal Patoli was involved in Traffic accident, where his Mini Van became almost total but by the grace of God, he and his son Mr. Taha Patoli only received minor internal injuries and now both have fully recovered and are fit and fine.

5. Mr. Mashhood Qazi, ex-President GTA Chapter hospitalized in emergency in the month of OCT-2004, due to kidney pain. He also has now recovered.

6. Mrs. Fariha Ansari, VP, GTA chapter is still under treatment, but recovering with the grace of Almighty.

7. Mr. Nazir Baloch and Raees Innayat Kaka of "Seeracha Kaka" have new arrivals in their Family. Community members have congratulated them on the birth of their cute sons.

8. Mr. Umair Shah, son of Mr. Shahnawaz Shah (former Regional Secretary Canada), recently married in Pakistan and he arrived with his bride here in Toronto last month. The SANA community has congratulated Mr. Umair, Mr. Shahnawaz Shah and the family on this happy occasion.

9. The daughter Of Mr. Fazal Patoli (Regional Secretary Zone 5), married in Yousfani family in Pakistan and she come back along with her groom, Mr. Inam. The couple is happily living in Oakville. Community has congratulated Mr. Patoli and his wife and the family and friends.

SANA GTA Chapter has prayed for the good health for all our community members and friends as well as congratulated the

recently married couples and sent greetings to the parents of new arrivals.

It has also welcomed new Sindhi families and friends who have arrived recently in Canada and urged them to become member of SANA, which is the best community organization in North America that is serving Sindhi Community with a minimum or none political agenda.

SANA GTA also requested to all old and the new members to please pay their dues for the current year.

Professor Ram Panjwani's last concert



Readers interested in the music of Sindhi scholar and singer, late professor Ram Panjwani may download his last concert at the following links posted on sanalist by Professor Gul Agha:

http://yangtze.cs.uiuc.edu/~agha/panjwani_akhirii_chonkii_A.mp3

http://yangtze.cs.uiuc.edu/~agha/panjwani_akhirii_chonkii_B.mp3

The files are about 35 MBytes each (30 minutes of music interspersed with brief commentary). They can be downloaded and saved.

Sindhi teachers welcomed

Sindhi Association of North America, SANA organized an Eid-Diyyari get-

together at the Crystal City Place in Washington, DC recently. A large number of local Sindhi families attended the event.

One of the main highlights of the event was the warm welcome accorded to six (6) visiting Sindhi teachers (Ms Shehla Devi, Mr. Zamir Hussain Langah, Mr. Mohammad Mallah, Ms Rehana Parveen Meerani, Mr. Shah Nawaz Sahto, and Mr. Deedar Ali Wahhocho).

The teachers are receiving advanced training in the modern teaching methods at George Mason University (GMU), which is located in the Fairfax suburb of Washington DC. A USAID education program whose focus is to improve education in Sindh and Balochistan supports their education and stay at the university.

The second major highlight of the gathering was the presentation of gifts by the President (Ms Yasmeen Memon) and Vice President (Ms Reno Ahuja) of the local SANA chapter to Mrs. Aisha and Mr. Maqbool Alliani, Mrs. Reno and Mr. Naresh Ahuja, and Mrs. Rifat and Mr. Gulzar Shaikh on becoming proud parents.

Eid-Diyyari gifts were also presented to several children present in the hall. The gathering extended a warm welcome to the new Washingtonian Sindhi family of Mrs. Kanwal, Mr. Hanif Sangi and their very young child. Although they moved to this area few months ago, but it is only recently that they were introduced to the Sindhi community.

This was followed by the announcement that the next convention of Sindhi Association of North America (SANA) will be held in Washington DC on the weekend of 4th of July. Mr. Sarfraz Memon presented a summary of activities that have been so far carried towards selecting the hotel for the convention.

Mr. Khalid Hashmani appealed to every one to support and volunteer their time and financial help. He added that this was truly one of the important events of Sindhis in North America, where more than 300-400 Sindhi families will gather to talk about social and cultural issues and the worsening situation in Sindh.

Last but not the least was the discovery of Mr. Asif Talpur as a budding Sindhi artist, who delighted the audience with his beautiful rendering of songs in Sindhi and other desi languages. He and his musician friend put up an excellent show that kept every one nailed in their seats past at least one-hour beyond the scheduled end time of the function.

VOA Sindhi language petition

Please go to the web site: <http://www.worldsindhi.org/signwsipetition/voletter-petition.aspx> and sign a petition addressed to Voice of America (VOA) to start a radio program in the Sindhi language. The petition has been initiated by the World Sindhi Institute (WSI) and has already been signed by hundreds of Sindhis.

Early this year nine (9) members of the US House of Representatives had written a letter to the VOA Chairman in support of a Sindhi VOA program.

Shah jo Risalo on Internet

Mr. Abdul Majid Bhurgri with the help of Ahmad Chand, Shahnawaz Soomro, Muhammad Habib Sanai, Abdul Rahim Nizamani, Faqir Aslah Ali Qalbani, Ashique Hussain Nizamani and Rashid Buriro, has composed and posted Shah jo Risalo on Internet. It could be viewed at: www.sindhicomputing.com

He has now set-up the Risalo in eBook format (pdf), which can be downloaded on computer (or Pocket PC) and enjoyed even when one is not connected to the Internet. It can be accessed with Acrobat Reader. If someone wishes to search the Risalo for any word or words it could be done by using the Middle Eastern version of Acrobat Reader, which can be freely downloaded from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/acrrmideast.html>

The eBook could be accessed by visiting any of these sites: <http://www.geocities.com/majidbhurgri/risalo.zip>

<http://www.freewebs.com/bhurgri/risalo.zip>
<http://majidbhurgri.tripod.com/risalo.zip>

Anwar Memon home after Kidney transplant

Mr. Anwar Memon, a veteran SANA member, has returned back home after undergoing a very complicated transplant surgery on February 10th.

Mr. Memon underwent a Kidney transplant surgery in Toronto. His wife Mrs. Najma Memon was the gracious donor of the kidney.

Both the spouses are doing great and have conveyed their word of thanks to the friends for their prayers and well wishes.

Posted by Mashhood Qazi

Iqbal Tareen hospitalized

Prominent community leader and former SANA president was hospitalized in Dallas, TX in December last.

He remained under observation for a few days and underwent some tests. He has now fully recovered and is back to work. He has thanked all the SANA members who enquired about his health and sent him get-well messages

Patoli family grieved

Mother of former Regional Secretary SANA Region 5, Mr. Fazal Patoli and active SANA members Waheed Patoli and Munir Patoli died in their hometown in Sindh. Sindhi community has condoled with the family on this tragic loss.

Posted by Jamil Daudi

Rahman Soomro family grieved

Adi Nargis, wife of Saaeen Rahman Soomro of CA, lost her younger brother in a tragic accident in Karachi. This is indeed a great loss. We all pray for the

deceased soul and condole with adi Nargis and Saaeen Rahman Soomro.

Mukhtiar Abbasi grieved

Elder sister of Mukhtiar Abbasi of Toronto expired on 14th February in Sindh at the age of 52. Sindhi community in the Greater Toronto Area and elsewhere has condoled with Mr. Abbasi on the sad demise of his sister.

Posted by Asghar Shaikh

Khalid Memon becomes president ACA

Mr. Khalid Memon of SANA Greater Toronto Area Chapter has been nominated as president of the Asian Canadian Association.

G.M. Syed's anniversary

World Sindhi Congress and the GM Syed Foundation celebrated the 101st birth Anniversary of late GM Syed, the great Sindhi leader in Houston, TX on 16th January. A large number of community members and Houston City Councilman Mr. MJ Khan participated.

Multi-purpose Sindh website

A SANA member Munawar Soomro is creating a multi-purpose website relating to Sindh and Sindhi culture. He has already done some work on the website. In a message posted on sanalist, he says that he needed SANA members' suggestions and input to make the website versatile and more useful. Please click on <http://www.indus-art.com> and check it out and send your suggestions to Mr. Munawar Soomro at: munawars@hotmail.com

SANA Human Rights Committee formed

SANA Human Rights Committee (SHRC) has been formed to work for the objectives set in the association's byelaws. The following SANA members, who had shown their willingness to be

part of such a committee, have been included in the SHRC:

Mrs. Firdous Altaf
Ms Noorunnisa Ghanghro
Dr Nazia Junejo
Mr. Mazhar Memon
Ms Samina Panwhar
Mr. Fayaz Soomro
Mr. Munawar Soomro (Coordinator)
Mr. Saleem Soomro

The SHRC will work according to the byelaws of the association and would identify the issues to be taken up and would prepare papers on those issues supported by documents and facts and figures. It will present its work to SANA EC for further action.

SANA membership is requested to cooperate with the SHRC and send their suggestions to its Coordinator at: sana_hrc@yahoo.com

Qalbani family celebrates

Qalbani family of St. Louis held a grand party on 25th December. A large number of family members and friends attended the party that was to celebrate the wedding anniversaries of Diwan and Dilshad Qalbani, Siraj and Zarina Qalbani, Abbas and Ambreen Qalbani, Asim and Monaa Qalbani and Amir and Katie Qalbani.

They also celebrated the birthdays of Shireen Qalbani, Shafqat Qalbani, Mujahid Qalbani, Katie Qalbani and Maria Qalbani. Sindhi community wishes them well.

Kathryn Qalbani graduates

Kathryn Qalbani graduated from the Missouri Western State college. She earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish.

Mashel Mughal graduates

The Maqbool Mughal family held a party at a restaurant in Chicago, IL on 1st of January to celebrate the graduation of the talented Mashel Mughal and her

inauguration into the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, IL.

Asim Kaghzi delivers lecture in Sindh

Mr. Asim Riaz Kaghzi of SANA Education Committee gave a talk on the "Challenges of Internet Based Systems/Databases" recently at Mehran University's Computer Science Department.

The program was coordinated and supported by Prof. Dr. A. Q. K. Rajput, Vice Chancellor MUET, Dr. B.S. Chawdhary, Chairman Electrical and Telecommunication Engineering and Mr. Abdul Razzak Kazi, Director Planning & Development.

SANA Houston Annual Dinner

SANA Houston Chapter is to host the Annual Dinner & Musical Program on 19th March at Village restaurant. All the members of the community living in and around Houston, Austin, Dallas, Arlington, Fort Worth, Plano, Denton, Lack Jackson, San Antonio, Waco, Corpus Christi, and in other close-by towns have been invited to attend the grand event. The organizers have promised an entertaining, fun-filled evening full of Kachahary, great food and a fine music program. Community members residing in other parts of USA, Canada, and guests from Sindh are also invited to attend this evening.

The event will start at 7:00pm at the Village Restaurant on Highway 6. \$15 will cover the dinner and music program. Children under 5 are free. For further information, please contact Mr. Jamil Daudi at 832-603-1300 or Mr. Ghulam Mohiuddin at 832-723-4925.

Posted by: Zafar Agha

SANA GTA Chapter Elections

SANA Greater Toronto Area Chapter held elections for new EC. Candidates ran a heated campaign with some

occasional fireworks. Two candidates even withdrew at the last minute. However the elections were held peacefully on 12th February and the following candidates were elected with overwhelming majority:

Mr. Khair Muhammad Kolachi, President
Mr. Muhammad Bukhsh Tunio, Vice President
Ms Farzana Ismail Daudpoto, Vice President, Women Affairs
Mr. Maqsood Soomro, General Secretary
Mr. Ghansham Rajani, Treasurer
Mr. Muhammad Afzal Memon, Information Secretary
Mr. Nazir Ahmed Baloch, EC Member (Men East)
Mr. Aijaz Ahmed Qureshi, EC Member (Men East)
Mr. Imran Ahmed Shaikh, EC Member (Men East)
Mr. Abdul Jabbar Lashari, EC Member (Men West)
Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Memon, EC Member (Men West)
Ms Safia Kanwal, EC Member (Women East)
Ms Farzana Khawaja, EC Member (Women West)

Mr. Ali Hyder Shah served as the head of the election committee with Mr. Mr. Abdul Rehman Shaikh and Mr. Tariq Surahyo as its members.

Visit to a juvenile jail

By Ali Nawaz Memon



During one of my recent visits to Pakistan, I visited a juvenile jail in Karachi with the staff of Ansar Burney Trust, which provides a lot of free services to prisoners.

A jail official and brother of Mr. Ansar Burny took me to several cells. Each cell had about 20 young boys who appeared to

be 10 to 15 years old. In each cell, I asked the inmates three questions: if they were guilty, if they wanted to tell me anything, and if I could do anything for them.

A lot touched my heart. I wish to share just two stories:

I met a very quiet 11-year-old Sindhi boy. He was just standing by silently. He did not offer to say anything. He was about 5' 2", no hair on beard but early growth of small light hair on mustache. I asked him why was he in jail. He said he was accused of raping a girl. I asked him what happened. He said that about two years ago (when he was about 9 years old), some important person in his village had asked for hand of his sister in marriage. His father refused. The man got very angry with his family and got him arrested. The charge was the rape of a girl in the village.

Looking at him and imagining how he must have been two years earlier at age of 9, it was my clear impression that it was a phony charge. I asked him, why his family had not got him out in two years. He said that he had heard that his father had died and people had told him that his mother was abusing every body - she had just gone mad. There was no other man in the family to bail him out. There has been no court proceeding. He expected to be in jail forever.

A 12-year-old boy was crying and had a very simple request. He said that his parents did not know that he was in jail since last 10 days. He requested that some one should simply inform them. He said that his parents were very old. There was no breadwinner in the house. Ten days ago, he came to Saddar to earn some money by cleaning cars. As he was cleaning his very first car on the road, a gang of boys came and stopped him. They said that it was their territory and he was not allowed to clean any cars. Then they started beating him. He started crying loudly. A policeman came and he locked up all of them. The boy was crying, he said, sir tell my parents that I am alive, otherwise they will die.

After talking to many kids in jail, I came for a meeting in the Jail Incharge's office. She was a young woman in police uniform. Turned out that that she was a CSP or PCS officer and she was a Sindhi girl from Garhi Yasin near Shikarpur. As

these two boys and some others. The Jailer promised and brother of Mr. Ansar Burny promised too.

I wish some of my readers will visit jails from time to time and try to help those in need.

The writer is member of SANA and a Senior Financial and Institutional Development Consultant

Words of Wisdom

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending and have the two as close together as Possible. ~George Burns

Santa Claus has the right idea ... visit people only once a year. ~Victor Borge

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. ~Mark Twain

By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. ~Socrates

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury. ~Groucho Marx

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe. ~Jimmy Durante

The male is a domestic animal, which if treated with firmness and kindness, can be trained to do most things. ~Jilly Cooper

I never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back. ~Zsa Zsa Gabor

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar, and fat. ~Alex Levine

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying. ~Ed Furgol

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was 'shut up.' ~Joe Namath

Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life. ~Herbert Henry Asquith

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.

~Bob Hope
It takes only one drink to get me drunk. The trouble is, I can't remember if it's the thirteenth or the fourteenth.

~George Burns

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress. ~Unknown

Don't worry about avoiding temptation... As you grow older, it will avoid you. ~Unknown

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty. But ... everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out. ~Unknown

The cardiologist's diet: If it tastes good ... spit it out. ~Unknown

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere. ~Unknown

Posted by Shahzad Kazi

Quotes

This is the duty of our generation as we enter the twenty-first century -- solidarity with the weak, the persecuted, the lonely, the sick, and those in despair. It is expressed by the desire to give a noble and humanizing meaning to a community in which all members will define themselves not by their own identity but by that of others. **ELIE WIESEL**

Your own safety is at stake when your neighbor's wall is ablaze. **HORACE**

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. **GEORGE BERNARD SHAW**

What cannot be achieved in one lifetime will happen when one lifetime is joined to another. **HAROLD KUSHNER**

The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life. **JANE ADDAMS**

Come out of the circle of time And into the circle of love. **RUMI**

We don't accomplish anything in this world alone ... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's

life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something. **SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR**

Rain does not fall on one roof alone. Rain does not fall on one roof alone. **CAMEROONIAN PROVERB**

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. **MARGARET MEAD (1901 - 1978)**

Water Issue in Pakistan

Water issue has gained alarming proportions in Pakistan where the rulers have ignored the wishes of the people of Sindh and many others and embarked on dangerous plans to undertake mega water projects. Here are three write-ups by SANA President Aziz Narejo published in newspapers and other media.

A Case Against Kalabagh Dam

The government of Pakistan seems all set to announce the construction of a mega dam, most probably the Kalabagh Dam on Indus River over the fierce opposition by two of the four federating units, the NWFP and Sindh. If it does so, the proposed KBD would be one of the two most controversial water projects in the country - the other being the under-construction Greater Thal Canal. Both the projects could prove disastrous for the country as they will further divide the people and become a constant source of internal strife.

I request the readers to please consider the following points and see how prudent it would be to undertake the KBD or for that matter any other mega dam project:

1. There is no extra water for any new dams or reservoirs in the Indus River System. During the past few years there has been scarcity of water in the country

and even the present dams have not been filled to capacity even though it is said that they have lost capacity due to silting. The lower riparian province has suffered immensely due to the damming of Indus River. It can't afford any more losses.

2. Provincial assemblies of the three federating units have unanimously rejected the KBD.

3. Indus River System Authority, IRSA, rejected the KBD on October 22, 1996 on the basis that: a) The Dam will be silted rather quickly. b) Its short life: 22 - 30 years. c) Poor performance. d) Comparatively lower electric generation capability.

4. The short life of the dam and a diminished power generation potential would result in huge losses to the country's exchequer. It is economically infeasible.

5. The dam will displace a large number of people and inundate fertile lands in the NWFP and Punjab. Many more acreage will be lost because of water logging in Mardan, Swabi, Charsadda, Pabbi, Nowshera, Dhoda, Kharmatoo and other areas. It will also cause land degradation in the Peshawar valley and affect the sweet water aquifers in Karak and Lakki Districts.

6. Additionally, the inhabitants of the low lying areas on both sides of rivers Indus, Sawan, Kabul and Tui will have to be shifted and given new houses and lands for settlement. These inhabitants are in hundreds of thousands and this will incur a heavy expenditure.

7. It will cause backpressure in the River Kabul, resulting in the increase in water logging.

8. Nowshera, a sizeable city of the Frontier Province, will be threatened with termination or severe water logging, as it will stand 24 feet below the height of Kalabagh storage.

9. Several bridges and roads including the Attock-Talagang road on river Sawan and the Kohat-Rawalpindi road and the Peshawar-Rawalpindi road on river Indus besides some railway tracks and other infrastructure will be submerged by the KBD.

10. The Sui gas line between Peshawar-Rawalpindi and Rawalpindi-Kohat will also sink in the dam.

11. The Mardan and Swabi SCARP projects will be affected.

12. Possible backwater effects on the Ghazi-Barotha project.

13. The dam will need about 19.5 MAF (for storage and the proposed irrigation canals) water. That will further strain the availability of water in the country especially for Sindh and Balochistan. Some recent statements say that the design will be changed and no canals will be built. But nobody in Sindh believes it as Wapda and federal authorities have a long history of broken promises.

14. If the dam is built there will not be any water available for downstream Kotri in the future. As a result the Delta and the Katcha areas in Sindh will be destroyed and the sea intrusion will cause annual losses of billions of rupees to the Sindh economy.

15. As the Dam will sit on a fault area, any earthquake can cause a disaster. Its proximity to Khewra salt mines only magnifies the problem.

16. Other adverse effects: a) Deleterious impact on environment, ecosystem, biodiversity, habitat, wetlands and subsoil aquifers b) Intensification of drought and desertification c) Acceleration of poverty in the lower riparian province with increased rural to urban migration d) Drinking water problems e) Progressive, illegal decreases in share of Sindh in Indus River System waters, as is already the case.

17. Sindh will continuously be blackmailed, as water taps will be controlled upstream.

Isn't it in order to call for dropping the Kalabagh Dam and other mega dams and looking for better alternatives?

This is a public appeal to all the people of the world to please impress upon the government of Pakistan to stop its genocidal policies.

A Case Against Greater Thal Canal

Anger, outrage, bewilderment and trepidation are mild words to describe the feelings of the people of Sindh at this juncture of history. They are anxious, to say the least, as important decisions affecting their present and future generations are being taken without consulting them and continuously ignoring their voices and concerns.

Look at the Greater Thal Canal (GTC) issue. Sindh questions its legitimacy and feasibility. The provincial assembly has passed unanimous resolutions against it and the people have spoken through massive rallies and strikes.

All that has fallen on deaf ears and the work on GTC is continuing unabated. One appeals to the government and the people to consider the following facts and help avert a great tragedy in making:

- Everyone knows it and Irsa, Wapda, the Punjab government and other GTC proponents agree that the country is facing a severe water shortage. That is the reason for non-compliance of the 1991 Water Accord. Where will water come from for this gigantic project? Isn't Sindh justified in its apprehensions that it will lose more water if the GTC became operational? History provides the answer.

- The GTC is to irrigate over 1.5 million acres of desert lands that will require more water compared to already irrigated lands. It means that a larger area under cultivation now will turn into desert in the southern province.

- The GTC will further strain the water-deficit irrigation system creating acrimony between provinces. How good is that for the already divided country?

- It denies the law of precedence and is at odds with the British Raj decision to disallow the construction of the canal on the plea that it would affect Sindh's water share.

- For a water project it is required to secure a certificate from Irsa to the effect that water is available for the project. Also for such projects PC-1 is prepared

and necessary approval is obtained from the CDWP and Ecneec and then administrative approval is obtained, money is released and work is started. But this is what happened in the GTC case: the president laid the foundation stone and work started on Aug 16, 2001. The CDWP cleared the scheme on Feb 8, 2002. Ecneec approved the project on Feb 28, 2002.

Irsa issued the water availability certificate, over Sindh objections, on May 7, 2002. All these approvals were secured in six to nine months after the start of the work on the project. So much for good governance!

- The GTC command area comprises a fragile ecosystem. It will cause silting of the main canal, distributaries and watercourses due to the movement of sand dunes, difficulties in irrigating the command area gravitationally due to uneven topography, huge cost to level the sand dunes and very high seepage losses due to sandy soil.

- According to a report published in daily Dawn on July 15, 2004, the World Bank has also questioned the economic viability of the GTC along with Reini and Kachhi canals. The bank has pointed out that either sufficient water is not available or better alternatives could have been pursued both on technical and economic sides.

- Thal, Kachhi and Reini canals are billed as flood canals to operate for 75-90 days only. However, the fact is that none of them is a flood canal as Thal and Kachhi are to operate during the whole 'Kharif' season and Reini will operate during the whole 'Kharif' season except 20 days of April. Again, where is the water for all of them?

Aren't we creating monsters that will soon feast on us?

And Now a Dam at Skardu!

"Never listen to reason" and "if you are in power, you are licensed to impose your will on the country no matter how detrimental and flawed it might be". These two 'principles' have been the hallmarks of our polity since 1947. They

hold true on the question of building mega dams too.

Proof? Water experts haven't reached a consensus on the availability of water for a dam of 6-7 MAF at Kalabagh or Bhasha but the government is reported to have already made up its mind on the issue and the unconstitutional and unrepresentative 'Technical Water Committee' is about to recommend the construction of 35 MAF Skardu Dam!

Since it concerns the future of our country, I think we have an obligation to check the pros and cons of Skardu Dam, the 'Father of All Dams'. Please consider the following points to have a picture:

- The dam if constructed will inundate Skardu, the largest town of Baltistan, including its suburbs spread over an area of about 25 sq miles. The entire flat valley around it and several defense installations will also be submerged. Think of Siachin!

- The annual average flow in Indus at the proposed site is 27 MAF only. With river supplies already committed in the country, filling of Skardu Dam (35 MAF), will be difficult even within a reasonable cycle of several years.

- The World Bank Study Group headed by Pieter Lieftinck in its study "Water and Power Resources of West Pakistan, 1968" said the Skardu dam would be "capable of regulating the entire flow of the Indus at that point" and that "with present techniques for dam construction, the problem of accessibility would be almost insuperable".

- Another study by Chas T Main considered power generation at Skardu Dam infeasible due to the long distance of transmission over rugged terrain.

- If a powerhouse were built there anyway, the WAPDA would insist on having a minimum storage in the reservoir to be able to operate it. What would happen in at least nine out of ten years when there would be no super flood conditions in the country? Who will suffer the most?

- Tarbela Dam, with a live storage capacity of 9.7 MAF, has evaporation and percolation related water losses of 9.3 MAF. Could anyone imagine the water losses due to a monstrous 35 MAF Dam?

- Consider the environmental consequences of a huge water body of 35 MAF? They include the increased risks of major earthquakes in the area and the post-dam degradation of lands and the adverse effects on flora and fauna and the human and delta life.

- Engr. Zeen Abid in his article "Another view on Katzarah" published in daily The News on Nov 12, 2004 quotes WAPDA figures saying that a dam of even 8.0 MAF at the Katzarah/Skardu site would flood the existing irrigation developments in Skardu and Shigar Valleys. He further says that with Skardu Dam: "about 96 villages including the town of Shigar (the Tehsil HQ) will come under water. About 160,000 persons will be affected in the reservoir area including 74,000 persons of Skardu Town. No alternate site in Baltistan is available to resettle them.

"...20,030 houses, 7,300 shops, 38,632 acres of agricultural land, 230 hotels, 3 PTDC motels, flour mills, 8 banks, 8 private schools, 4 hospitals, 10 petrol pumps etc will all be submerged. Besides, Shangrila Hotel and Restaurant with a lake, 132 huts and other infrastructure will also come under water.

"...6 big hospitals, 4 basic health units, 28 dispensaries, 72 first aid units, 4 colleges, 6 public schools, 9 high schools, 18 middle schools and 75 primary schools, 30 veterinary hospitals and dispensaries, 80 km roads, 25 km dual carriageway, 462 km single roads, 46 suspension and RCC bridges, 288 residential units, 280 non-residential units, 6 rest house, 3 trout fish farms and several transport and communication schemes will be submerged.

"The present run way about 12,000 feet long...will be submerged. No other site is available in whole of Baltistan for the construction of such a long runway and allied structures."

Please consider the loss of almost all the development in the area and the loss to eco system, tourism and the economic activity in the area. Do we really need to build the Skardu Dam or for that matter any other mega dam especially when we can do a lot better without them?



21st Annual SANA Convention is to be held on July 1-4 at the Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center – Tyson's Corner at 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA - in the heart of Northern Virginia's business district, just minutes from Washington DC, Dulles International Airport and Reagan National Airport - near the Tyson's Corner Mall and Tyson's Galleria via complimentary shuttle.

The local organizing committee has negotiated a great rate of \$79 per room for two. It includes breakfast for two guests. To get this rate the participants have to make reservations before June 1. Please call the hotel at: **1-800-222-TREE (8733) or 703-893-1340 and**

mention SANA. Please make the reservations at the earliest. Don't wait until the last moment.

Directions and Transportation

From Washington Dulles Airport: Take Route 267 east toward Washington; take Route 7 exit towards Tyson's Corner. Proceed appx 2-1/2 miles and the hotel will be on your right (immediately following the two exits for 495)

From I-66 or Reagan National Airport: Take I-66 west toward Manassas/Front Royal; take exit 66B towards Tyson's Corner. Follow through 5 traffic lights and the hotel will be on your left at the 5th traffic light.

From Baltimore, Philadelphia or NY City: Take 95 South to I-495. From Capital Beltway I-495, take exit 47B Falls Church (Leesburg Pike, Rt 7 East). The hotel will be on your right.

From Southern Virginia: Take 95 North to I-495. From Capital Beltway, take exit 47B Falls Church (Leesburg Pike, Rt 7 East). The hotel will be on your right.

For more information, please visit the hotel website at:
<http://www.doubletree.com/en/dt/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=IADLRDT>

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

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