



سینڈھی ائسوسی ایشن آف نارٹھ امریکا

Malir

Community Newsletter

Vol. I

April-June 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,
Assalam-o-Alaikum,

It is indeed a great pleasure to extend my Heartfelt congratulations to the Sindhi community of Canada on the occasion of the first ever publication of the community newsletter 'Malir'. This is one step forward in fulfilling our commitments to remain in close contact with the friends all across Canada. Hope this trend will continue going forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my gratitude to all the Sindhi friends who, in one or the other way, are helping the fellow Sindhi's in North America. Our basic commitment should always be to help our friends who are in need. To that end, we are in process of taking some positive steps to reflect our presence not only in Canada but the world over through the Internet. You will shortly see the benefits out of this and other initiatives that we have planned. We look forward for a strong support from all of you in serving the community. As human beings, we may have differences as individuals but I would humbly request all of our Sindhi friends to remain united for community service. 'UNITY IS STRENGTH'

On behalf of the new Executive Council of SANA Toronto Canada, I would like to thank everyone who volunteered in the past for community service and assure them that we will do our best to extend our community presence and service to new heights.

'TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE'

Sincerely,

Mashhood Qazi
President, SANA Canada Chapter

Get-together in Toronto

By: Sarfraz Gahothi, General Secretary SANA Canada

Parties and social gatherings has always been a great exasperation, but to attend a get-together of SANA, it is not only a privilege, but it gave me a chance to get in touch with Sindhi people and Sindh. To see the bright faces of Sindhi youths expressing their love for the Sindhi language and culture warms my heart. It gives me hope that my culture will be carried on through our

children to future generations and will be preserved for ages to come. This is why I express the importance of social gatherings between Sindhi families. It is a time for everyone to meet people of their own language and take a break from their regular English speaking lives. In a country where your own people are difficult to find, SANA has created an amazing amount of people that can relate to each other. So, when I got an invitation to attend a get-together where all Sindhi's living throughout Ontario were going to gather, I was thrilled.

In spite of rumors, speculations, and extremely cold weather, a large number of new and old families participated. The regional secretary of SANA Canada Mr. Fazal Patoli called the meeting, and the arrangements were made by the former members of Council, and with Saeen Abdul Razak Khushk, who arranged for the large Community Hall situated in the beautiful city of Mississauga. The participants arrived on scheduled time (with some being fashionably late) to express their allegiance to Sindh and its people. The Meeting Hall was full of chatter and the smell of delicious food, which was brought in by members.

Upon arrival, everybody was asked to fill out nomination forms for the election of council members and leaders for 2003. Surprisingly, it was first time in the history of the Toronto Chapter that a great number of nominations forms were received and the nominees, for highly competitive positions, introduced themselves.

The participants were welcomed by former council member Saeen Shahnawaz Shah (Former Regional Sec), Saeen Fazal Patoli (New Regional Sec), members of the election committee, Mr. Syed Ali Hyder and Mr. Shahnawaz Shaikh. They also explained the purpose of annual get-togethers and during the meeting, members openly asked questions about the role of SANA for the welfare of Sindhi's. Other concerns included the performance and mishaps of the former executive council. New members asked more questions about the effective role of the Toronto Chapter and SANA as a whole. Saeen Shahnawaz Shah explained the present situation and the performance of the former council. He asked the new members to focus on socialization and get-togethers of Sindhi's due to limited resources. He invited the members to show their interest to participate in new council elections and contribute in activities.

The election committee conducted the election according to the Bylaws of SANA. They declared the list of candidates, filled nomination forms, and according to the list, they affirmed that all candidates, with the exception of General Secretary and Vice

President, were unopposed. Afterwards, the candidates for General Secretary and Vice President were asked to present speeches in front of other members to explain their views and ideas for SANA (as well as some formal humor).

The nominees for Vice President (Mr. Abdul Rahim Khatri, Mr. Ratnani Deleep), and for General Secretary (Mr. Sarfraz Gahothi, Mr. Khuwaja Zulfiqar Ali) addressed members with their views on how they will play an effective role for SANA. Even though the noise level was high and there was much commotion, the candidates still got their message across to the members. The main point expressed was the unification of all Sindhis on "one platform". Other points included their background skills, experience, and other information. The results of the election attached show a huge panel of contest as compared to previous panels, which were mostly nominated and not elected.

The list of the candidates elected unopposed were as follows:

Position	Nominee
President	Mr. Mashood Qazi
Vice President – Women Affairs	Mrs. Fariha Ansari
Treasurer – Finance	Mr. Tariq Surahyo
Information Secretary	Mr. Imtiaz Channa
Council Member (women affairs)	Mrs. Sameea Ansari
Council Member (women affairs)	Mrs. Shabi Malik
Council Member	Mr. Abdul Razzak Khushk
Council Member	Mr. Preetam Luhuna
Council Member	Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Mahar
Council Member	Mr. Aftab Memon
Council Member	Mr. Abdul Rasheed Soomro

The nominations for the following posts were as follows:

Vice President

Abdul Rahim Khatri
Deleep Ratnani

General Secretary

Sarfraz Gahothi
Zulfiqar Ali Khowaja

Therefore, the election for the above posts was carried out and the results of the voting were as follows:

Vice President	No. Of Votes	General Secretary	No. Of Votes
Mr. Abdul Rahim Khatri	55	Mr. Sarfraz Gahothi	46

Mr. Deleep Ratnani	25	Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Khowaja	36
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The votes were counted in presence of the election commission. Their peers cheered them on as Mr. Abdul Rahim Khatri was declared Vice President and Mr. Sarfraz Gahothi as General Secretary. The candidates met with the members and were congratulated. (Gahothi! Gahothi! Gahothi! and Khatri! Khatri! Khatri!)

At the end of the election, the winning Vice President and General Secretary once again were asked to give their thoughts and regards to members which elected them as well as the members who participated. Once again, the noise was relentless; nevertheless they spoke loudly and got their message through.

The new President also thanked the members and invited Aapa Shaikh (mother of Abdul Rahman Shaikh) and Aapa Fatima Qazi (mother of Mashood Qazi) to speak.

Aapa Shaikh emphasized on all Sindhis to unite them selves and live with love and caring. She asked all members to work for humanity, make discipline a top priority, and familiarize their children with Sindhi culture and traditions.

At the end, Aapa Fatima Qazi expresses her feelings about Sindh and offered her prayers and blessings. Everyone was asked to do Dua, which made the boisterous room quiet and peaceful. The meeting ended and the evening's dinner commenced. Dinner included kabobs, briyani, and korma. After dinner chai, ice cream, cake and pudding were served to sweeten the mood.

Also, games for children were arranged and gifts were distributed. This provided the only bit of silence as they opened their gifts, and once again, initiated to even more screaming and laughter. Some of the games included were musical chairs (with traditional Sindhi music of course), hot potato (batata), and ring around the Rosie's.

Overall, the evening was filled with much excitement, enthusiasm, delicious food, sweet deserts, hot chai, (old fashioned Sindhi gossip), and was one not to be missed.

SAEEN MA SADAEEEN KAREEN SINDH MATHAY SUKAAR
DOST TOON DILDAR, ALAM SABH ABAD KAREEN

SANA Executive Council Meeting - Minutes

February 23rd, 2003

Venue: Residence of Mr. Fazal Patoli

Attendees: Fazal Patoli, Mashhood Qazi, Abdul Rahim Khatri, Sarfraz Gahothi, Tariq Surahyo, Imtiaz Channa, Ghulam Murtaza Mahar, Mrs. Shabi Malik, Aftab Memon, Abdul Rasheed Soomro, Mrs. Sameea Ansari, Shahnawaz Shah, Bashir Memon and Ali Hyder

Item	Action
<p>1. Take over of responsibilities, including; funds, documents, etc</p> <p>Mr. Fazal Patoli Ex President of SANA Canada and Now Regional Secretary SANA formally transferred all the responsibilities including documentations, etc to the new elected council.</p>	<p>Funds transfer did not happen as previous accounts are under review. Mr Patoli will ensure such transfer before the next executive council meeting.</p> <p>Mr Gahothi and Mr Qazi will follow-up on missing funds</p>
<p>2. Registration of SANA Canada.</p> <p>Mr. Bashir Memon has initiated the registration process with Revenue Canada. He handed over necessary documents to the council.</p> <p>Establish a joint account in the name of SANA Canada with 5 executive council member signatures. The account can be operated by 2 out of 5 signatories.</p>	<p>Mr Patoli and Mr Qazi will meet with the accountant to finalize the registration and post-registration processes</p> <p>Names to be finalized in the next meeting</p>
<p>3. Status Update: Membership fees to SANA USA</p> <p>It was agreed to pay CDN \$5.00 per member as a membership fees to SANA USA to encourage a tight alliance with the parent organization.</p>	<p>Mr. Patoli to finalize the details</p>
<p>4. Membership fees from Toronto members</p> <p>It was agreed that each executive council member will be assigned to collect membership fees from people residing in his nearby vicinity.</p>	<p>The assignment will happen once revised contact directory will be available</p>
<p>5. SANA Canada Website</p> <p>Mr. Imtiaz Channa informed the council that work is in progress on the website for SANA Canada. The Council approved the website registration with the domain name of www.sanacanada.com. The Council thanked Mr Channa for his efforts and approved the hosting of the website.</p>	<p>Members are encouraged to view the new under construction website at www.greatsys.net/sana and provide a positive feedback to Imtiaz Channa at ichanna@greatsys.com</p>
<p>6. Toronto Contact Directory</p> <p>The need for an updated contact directory was emphasized in the meeting.</p>	<p>Mr. Aftab Memon and Mr. GM Mahar have been assigned with the responsibility to finalize the directory by March 30th. This list will then be posted on SANA Canada website.</p>
<p>7. Frequency and timeline for executive council meetings.</p> <p>The Council unanimously agreed to hold council meetings every two months.</p>	
<p>8. Get-togethers going forward</p> <p>Following was discussed in length and agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get-togethers every 3 months - Celebrate Canada and Lateef days - All parties to be one dish parties - Participants to pay \$5 per family to cover expenses for the next party <p>Literary activities during get-togethers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz competition; to increase level of awareness about Sindh 	<p>Mr Rasheed Soomro will prepare questions and organize this event</p>

<p>in particular, and Canada and Pakistan in general. Encourage youngsters to actively participate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A session of speeches 'MAKALA' on any topic about Sindh - Games and extra Curricular activities for kids 	
<p>9. Coordination with SANA USA</p>	<p>Mr Patoli will be incharge ref. postings, memos, updates, and announcements</p>
<p>10. AOB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Tariq Surahyo requested to relinquish him from his duties as Treasurer as he is planning to leave Canada for good. The council handed over the interim responsibility to Abdur Rahim Khatri until the next get-together when the replacement will be elected - Council agreed that going forward, if any of the council member will remain absent consecutively from 3 council meetings without an advance notice or a valid reason, his membership will be immediately terminated and a replacement will be elected. - Committee agreed to propose SANA USA to hold it's 2004 convention in Toronto - At the end of the meeting, the council offered Fatiha and Dua-e-Maghfirat for the one's who passed away. Ina Lillah Wa Ina Illaih Raajioon. <p>Father of Irfan Shaikh Brother of Ahmed Nawaz Channa Mother in Law of Abdur Rahim Khatri Brother in Law of Iqbal Soomro Father in Law of Shakeel Rajpar Father in Law of Zulfiqar Dhakan</p>	<p>Mr Patoli will move the proposal</p>
<p>11. Next meeting – Sunday, April 27th 2003 @ 3PM Venue: Residence of Mashhood Qazi</p>	

HISTORICAL, CULTURAL BACKGROUND & GEOGRAPHY OF SINDH

CULTURE AND LITERATURE

Sindh is a repository of varied cultural values and has remained the seat of civilization and meeting point of diverse cultures from times immemorial. After Independence on August 14, 1947 with the influx of Muslims from India, its culture has progressively assumed a new complexion. Sindh's cultural life has been shaped, to a large extent, by its comparative isolation in the past from the rest of the subcontinent. A long stretch of desert to its east and a mountainous terrain to the west served as barriers, while the Arabian Sea in the south and the Indus in the north prevented easy access. As a result, the people of Sindh developed their own exclusive artistic tradition. Their arts and craft, music and literature, games and sports have retained their original flavor. Sindh is rich in exquisite pottery, variegated glazed tiles, lacquer-work, leather and straw products, needlework, quilts, embroidery, hand print making and textile design. According to renowned European historian H.T. Sorelay, Sindhis had not only contributed to literature but also to astronomy, medicine, philosophy, dialectics and similar subjects.

Melas (fairs) and malakharas (wrestling festivals) are popular. Falconry, horse and camel breeding and racing are characteristic pastimes. Sindhi fishermen float earthen pots to catch the palla fish in the Indus, bullock cart racing and cockfighting are also typical of the province.

Genuine love for fellow beings, large heartedness and hospitality constitute the very spirit of Sindhi culture and it is the association of the cultural elements that elevate it and keep aloft its banner among the contemporary cultures of South-Asia. Having lived for centuries under the changing sway of various dynasties i.e. the Arabs, Mughals, Arghuns, Turkhans and Soomras, Sammahs, Kalhoras and Talpurs, Sindhi culture is a fusion of multiple culture patterns. These splendor and enrichment are reflected in Sindhi art and architecture, habits and customs. The old tombs and buildings in Thatta, Sehwan, Hyderabad, Sukkur and the excavations at Bhambore, Brahmanabad and Debal bear ample evidence in support of the above statement. These places fostered in their environment, some of the best cultural values which were handed

down to the inhabitants of the adjoining areas. Today, these values form the very foundation of Sindhi culture.

The Sindhi language has pure Sanskrit basis and is closely related to the ancient Prakrit. Its alphabet contains fifty-two letters. The Rev. Mr.G. Shree of Hyderabad, one of the first Sindhi scholars, considered that the language is probably, so far as its grammatical construction is concerned, the purest daughter of Sanskrit. It has small sprinkling of Dravidian words, and has in later times received large accessions to its vocabulary from Arabic and Persian. After the advent of Islam, a number of Sindhi scholars not only wrote books in Arabic on various aspects of Islam, but also composed poetry of a high order in that language. During the rule of Soomras and Sammahs, Sindhis produced excellent poetry, and amongst the earliest and best-known poets we find the name of Syed Ali and Qazi Qadan both of Thatta and their younger contemporary, Shah Abdul Karim of Bulrhi, the great-grandfather of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai.

Qazi Qadan (870-985 A.H.) introduced Philosophy into Sindhi poetry. He has in his poetry laid great emphasis on purity of mind and the study of the self. In one of his verses he says, "Even if you master thoroughly the great Arabic works Qudoori and Kafia you will only be like an ant sitting within a well in a limited environment knowing nothing of the world outside".

Then comes Shah Abdul Karim of Bulrhi. In 98 couplets he has explained the intricacies of human philosophy. In one of his couplets, he says "The best way of Living in the world is to give your heart to the beloved and be bodily connected with fellow human beings".

Shah Latif and his contemporaries, Shah Inayat, Muhammad Moeen Thattvi Issa Mian and Misri Shah, were also pioneers in the field of the well-known Sindhi Kafi Lyric. Others who contributed to kafi were Qasim, Hyder Shah, Fazil Shah, Pir Mohammad Ashraf, Assooran and Qaleech Beg. Misri Shah is considered to be the undisputed monarch in the domain of Kafi. The term Kafi was originally taken from Shah Abdul Latif's waie, which correspond to Ghazal. Sachal Sarmast added glory to Kafi in his lyrics.

POETRY

After the advent of Islam, a number of Sindhi scholars not only wrote books in Arabic on various aspects of Islam, but also composed poetry of high order in that language. It is presumed that these scholars also wrote in their own language. Long before the British rule, under the influence of Persian poetry, the Sindhi poets borrowed many ideas from Persian poets. There were, however, some poets such as Mohammad Qasim, Murtaza Thattavi, Gul Mohammad Gul, Syed Gada, Hafiz Hamid, Mir Abdul Hussain Sangi, Zaman Shah and others who, in spite of having adopted Persian forms, derived their inspiration from the classical Sindhi poets. Theirs works have, therefore been popular among the masses, as well as people of more sophisticated tastes. Others, who continued to compose in indigenous styles,

using the Sindhi language in its purest form, include Misree Shah, Mahdi Shah, and Hafiz Shah. Sahibdion Shah, Wali Mohammad Leghari and Hammal Faqir.

After Khalifo Gul Mohammad a host Sindhi poets contributed to the development of the ghazal. The following poets deserve special mention: Qasim Shamsuddin Bulbul, Mir Abdul Hussain Saangi, Bewas Lekhraj Kishanchand Aziz, Zia Fani, Farid, Fakir Abdul Rahim of Groroh and Hafiz Mohammad Hayat. Humour Shamsuddin Bulbul was the first poet to introduce humor in Sindhi poetry. He can very well be compared to Akbar Allahabadi.

In this field Mohammad Hashim Mukhlis and more particularly Mirza Qaleech Beg, the father of modern Sindhi poetry and prose have left an indelible mark. The latter's humor is much more polished and constructive. " Saudai Khan" is a modest collection of his poetry dealing with the experiences of life and the ravages of time. The book is in two volumes, and each column consists of homage paid to his ancestors and guide. He composed only 14 ghazals in Urdu.

SHAH ABDUL LATIF BHITAI

Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai (1689-1752) perfected Sindhi poetry both in form and in content and is reckoned as the peerless master of Sindhi verses. The most salient feature of his poetry is Sufism, which he had presented with dexterity in his famous work, Shah Jo Risalo. The main characteristic of Shah Latif's poetry is that it is a 'remarkable record of God-intoxicated man's longing to rise above his level of life in order to meet his Maker". He had a command to express and interpret the joys and sorrows, hopes and aspirations of the people of Sindh. Shah Latif's poetry depicts nature and its manifestations in a most vivid and vivacious manner. He had composed beautiful verses on the river Indus, the shining surface of lakes and the barren ranges of hills. He had also versified on the behavior of the sea and the boats and boatmen living on the shore of the sea. He was the most prolific writer and poet of his age. His poetry is deeply rooted in the soil of Sindh, yet it has a universal appeal.

So great is the impact of his immortal work on Sindhi literature that one hears its distinct echo in all the poetry produced by later generations. From the time of Shah Latif to the British conquest of Sindh, there were a large number of Sindhi poets, such as Mohammad Zaman of Luwar, Abdul Grohari, Sachal Sarmast, Bedil, Bekas, Sami, Pir Ali Gohar Asghar (Pir Pagaro), Roohal Faqir, Pir Asghar Ali, Pir Ghulam Shah Rashidi and Sabit Ali Shah Sabit, whose works are still to be found.

SACHAL SARMAST

Sachal Sarmast (Abdul Wahab) is another Sufi poet of distinction who composed verses on philosophy and Sufism. He was at home in a number of languages and composed poetical pieces in Arabic, Sindhi, Saraiki or Multani, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and Persian. His poetry is

They both were one, but two became
only when 'hearing' came.

If you have learnt to long, by pain
be not distressed-
Secret of love's sorrow must be
never confessed-
Suffering is by the heart caressed,
and there it is preserved.

There is a call to gallows, friends,
will any of you go!
Those who do talk of love may know
to gallows they must speed.

Foundation stone of the building of Sindhi Adabi Sangat laid down in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: The foundation stone of the main building of Sindhi Adabi Sangat laid down here on Sunday, April 13. The Sangat is considered as the largest organization of the writers in the Indian sub-continent. The building when completed will accommodate one library to be named in the first Secretary of the Sangat late Gobind Malhi

Sindhi lady Surya Makhdoom is candidate of Labour Party in United Kingdom

LONDON: Sindhi lady Ms Surya Makhdoom who originally belongs to Darbello in Naushero Feroze District in Sindh and presently living in United Kingdom for the last many years, is now candidate of Labour Party in Birmingham for Local Councilor. She is elder sister of Zahid Makhdoom who once was known as renowned writer and now lives in Canada for the last 20 years. The election symbol of Ms Surya is flower while elections will be held on May 01. She lives in UK for the last 10 years

Popular Sindhi poet Mohammad Khan Majidi passes away

SUJAWAL: Popular Sindhi poet Mohammad Khan Majidi passes away on Monday, April 07 after prolonged illness of eight months. He was 86

Sindh rejects Punjab's proposal on NFC

April 22: The Sindh government has rejected a proposal by the Punjab government for extending the period of NFC Award for one more year "as its continuation will be against the interests of smaller provinces".

Aftab Ahmad Shaikh, advisor on finance to the chief

minister, urged the federal government to resolve the issue immediately, and pointed out that smaller provinces had already been suffering and a sense of deprivation was prevailing among masses. He recalled that the federal government had agreed, in principle, to increase the share of the provincial governments in the divisible pool by 2.50 per cent.

The provinces, which were getting 37.5 per cent share earlier, would be disbursed 40 per cent from the pool money, Mr Shaikh pointed out. He said the mid-term award or extension of the period of present award by one year would go against the interests of smaller provinces. Mr Shaikh said the present award did not commensurate with the requirement and rights of Sindh and there was a demand for constitution of the new award before the next budget so that provinces could plan their development projects accordingly.

Mangrove re-plantation project

KARACHI: The Sindh Coastal Development Authority (SCDA) has submitted a proposal for the replanting and re-generation of 8,000 hectares of Indus delta mangroves in Shah Bunder, Keti Bunder and Karachi areas with an estimated cost of Rs 11 million. The official sources disclosed the proposal has been submitted keeping in view the rapid destruction of Indus delta mangroves, which is likely cause irreparable loss to the national exchequer. The Indus delta is about 200 kms long and 50 kms wide.

According to survey, the mangroves forests in Keti Bunder and Shah Bunder have been reduced to 1,000 square meters in just over a decade. Consequently, the catch was 600 tons in 1986, which has been reduced to 200 tons now. Similarly, the annual average catch of shrimp was 27,541 tons in Sindh has also declined.

PRESS RELEASES

A.

The Government of Pakistan has decided to reduce the fee and revise the validity of National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistanis (NICOP). The fee for NICOP will now be \$15.00US and it will be valid for 10 years.

B.

The Government of Sindh (Pakistan), in collaboration with Ecommerce Gateway Pvt Ltd., Singapore, CommerceNet Singapore and Jamal Yellow Pages of Pakistan, is organizing a mega IT event "ITCN Asia – 2003" Exhibition and Conference on August 9-11, 2003 at Karachi Expo Centre to highlight the business opportunities in the IT Sector in Pakistan. The event would showcase Pakistan's IT and software potential in a grand manner and is planned to attract international players for investment and outsourcing ventures with Pakistani companies to further boost its exports. Participation in "ITCN Asia – 2003" by the representatives of IT companies will be great help in match making. The High Commission for Pakistan would be pleased to extend all possible help/assistance to the participants.