

SANGAT

Editor: Dr. Altaf A. Memon

Bimonthly Newsletter

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EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

The St. Louis meeting was successful in many ways, but the most profound manner in which our womenfolk participated was really the highlight of the meeting. On disappointing note, however, was the maneuvering taking place by certain groups to hijack the association.

SANA has completed its infancy and has now emerged as a new kid on the block. Khalid Hashmani must be congratulated for showing the leadership, uncommon among us, to keep the organization intact. That is quite an accomplishment considering the failure of our similar organizations. As SANA has gained respect and stature, there are individuals who wish to either gain control of it or use it for self aggrandizement. We have maintained a sort of democratic and secular framework and should continue in the same fashion. We should, however, try to be careful about those who are so short-sighted that they seek their individual gains at the cost of SANA.

Ever since we started SANA, there have been quite a few changes on Sindh's horizon which demand our attention. First, dictatorial rule has been lifted. Second, MQM and other elements have introduced a heightened ethnic fervor to the political situation in Sindh. Third, Sindh has elected to put its lot in the hands of PPP, which appears to be more interested in holding on to power rather than giving Sindh and Sindhis their due rights. Biharis continue to flock to Sindh. Sindhis are being driven out of Sindh's cities. Cantonments still remain in Sindh; the Kalabagh Dam project still looms large. Provincial autonomy is on the back burner, and the Sindh Government is going out of its way to please MQM at the cost of Sindhi interests. In short, Sindh today stands on the brink, where its very existence as a Sindhi state is threatened. Most of our sincere and serious leaders suggest that we are at the crossroads where we do not know what to do or where to go. Can we afford to sit back and see our homeland torn apart by wolves or should we shake out of this lull and do something?. SANA, as an organization with all its capabilities, must play a role in sorting through this quagmire and guide our people to find a way.

NEWS FRONT

SANA Member's House Attacked

Terrorists, believed to be affiliated with MQM, attacked, ransacked and looted many homes belonging to Sindhis in Hyderabad. Several Sindhis were murdered by the terrorists. Among those who were effected was the home of Mr. Salim Ursani, a prominent and active SANA member. SANA Executive Council and its members were outraged. Not only did they condemn these terrorist actions but also offered their full support to Mr. Salim Ursani and his family. SANA telegraphed the Prime Minister of Pakistan condemning terrorism against Sindhis and demanding protection for Sindhis in Sindh cities.

World Sindhi Congress Meeting

A general body meeting of World Sindhi Congress was held in London under the chairmanship of Dr. G. M. Bhurgri. Sympathy and support was extended to Mr. Salim Ursani and other affected in Sindh riots. MQM was warned to desist from such cowardly attacks and demanding protection for Sindhis in Sindh cities. WSC has scheduled a conference on Sindh to be held in London, UK on October 15, 1989.

Nasir Shaikh Criticizes Sindhis

Dr. Nasir Shaikh, a PPP leader and close advisor to Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said in London that Sindhis should not call themselves Sindhis because, according to him, Ms. Bhutto considers it as either anti-PPP or anti-Pakistan. This was disclosed at the WSC meeting in London. It was also revealed in the meeting that Ms. Bhutto refused to meet any Sindhi living in UK when invited to meet a WSC delegation during her UK visit.

Illegal Bihari Aliens in Sindh

Several groups of Biharis have entered Sindh illegally from Bangladesh through India and Punjab by rail via Lahore. Punjab government and Pakistan Railways assisted in this by allowing these aliens to cross through Punjab and travel without tickets.

The Dictator Remembered

The first death anniversary of General Zia was observed by IJI and their supporters in Rawalpindi. About 50,000 people gathered to pay homage to the dictator who ruled Pakistan with an iron fist and was responsible for killing thousands of people, most of them Sindhis.

Mohajir Vs. Mohajir

Mohajirs in Hyderabad Sindh observed Zia's death anniversary under the leadership of Usman Kennedy and Maulana Nadawi. They brought down the MQM flags and erased MQM graffiti from the city walls in an apparent attempt to undercut MQM support. MQM leadership responded in kind and within hours MQM flags were re-hoisted and graffiti painted in MQM strongholds.

Mayor Aftab's Enlightenment

Mr. Aftab Shaikh, Mayor of Hyderabad, after his return from USA, has adopted a low key posture and has made none of the kind of militant statements he did in the past. It is learned that he is contemplating emigration to USA.

Jiye Sindh Marathon Session

A marathon session of Jiye Sindh was held under the chairmanship of Mr. G. M. Syed. The council was deeply divided on how to deal with the increasing Mohajir militarism.

Karachi Rioting

No sooner did Mohajirs ease their attacks on Sindhis that they once again found themselves rioting with Punjabis and Pathans in Karachi. It was a re-emergence of the conflict between MQM and PPI. It was widely believed, however, that MQM started this round of terrorist action against innocent citizens.

Bizinjo Passed Away

A veteran mainstream Baloch politician and head of PNP, Mir Bizinjo passed away. He was buried in his hometown of Naal in Balochistan. Among those who attended his funeral was Sardar Attaullah Mengal, former chief minister of Balochistan, who had been living in self-exile for last ten years.

Troika Teetering

All hell broke loose in Islamabad when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto did not attend a routine convention due to the convening of a meeting concerning the security of the country and democracy. Rumor mills were churning overtime. Stories from her resignation to coup attempt were being heard. In fact, there was a constitutional struggle going on between President Ishaq and Benazir Bhutto over the matter of Admiral Sirhoy's retirement as the Joint Chief-of-Staff and General Mirza Aslam Beg, the Army Chief-of-Staff, had thrown his hat in the middle of the crisis. She, reportedly, surprised President Bush by calling him unannounced and asking him for help to preserve democracy in Pakistan.

Ishaq Against India

President Ishaq has criticized Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's attempts for better relations between India and Pakistan.

PPP Loses By-Election

IJI candidate has won the by-election in Farooqabad Punjab Assembly seat against PPP by nearly 30,000 votes. The seat was vacated after the death of Chhabba Dogar, an independent pro IJI MPA.

Punjab Autonomous

Nawaz Sharif's government in Punjab has taken several steps to bring provincial autonomy to their province, much to chagrin of Ms. Bhutto's federal government. Among other things, Punjab has its own state bank and Power Distribution Authority. In the past, however, Mr. Sharif and his followers have vehemently opposed the provincial autonomy demanded by other provinces and have dubbed such demands tantamount to treason.

Pirzada Tries for Consensus

SNA leader Mr. Abdul Hafeez Pirzada held a gathering at his home in Karachi to build a consensus on nationalist and minority protection issues. Among those attended were Sardar Attaullah Mengal, Jam Sadiq Ali, Rana Chandar Singh, Shabir Shah, Shafi Mohammad Jamote, Dr. Hamida Khuro, Abdul Hamid Jatoti and Zulfiqar Ali Shah Jamote.

Shah Finds Iqbal Universal

Federal education minister, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, said, Sir Mohammad Iqbal was a giant among intellectuals of international stature, and he (Mr. Shah) and Pakistanis were genuinely proud for what Iqbal stood for. This appears to be in contradiction to what Mr. Shah has written about Iqbal in his writings in "Sindh Quarterly".

IJI For Release of Fazle Haq

Former chief minister under the Zia dictatorship, Rtd. Lt. Gen. Fazle Haq, was arrested after NWFP high court refused to grant him bail. He is charged with ordering the murder of a well-respected Shia leader. Mr. Haq, though not charged for it, has long been considered as one of the king pins in the narcotic hierarchy in Pakistan. IJI leaders held a small rally in Rawalpindi demanding his release.

Sindh's Blast PPP Betrayal

A huge gathering was organized in Hyderabad on August 25 under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul Hamid Jatoi, a leader of SNA and former MNA from Dadu. Several SNA leaders addressed the gathering of about 100,000 Sindhis. They accused Ms. Benazir Bhutto for the murder of innocent Sindhis by MQM terrorists. Several resolutions were passed for the rights of Sindh and Sindhis.

Makhdoom Khaliq Speaks Up

Makhdoom Khaliq, an influential PPP MNA from Hyderabad, addressed a press conference in Hala. He accused Qaim Shah government to be ineffective. He expressed disappointment over the PPP-MQM accord, and termed it "a part of blackmail". He reiterated his opposition to Kalabagh dam, cantonments in Sindh, transfer of Biharis to Sindh, and denial of Sindh's autonomy.

Mohajir Terrorism Reaches New Heights

Lala Zafar, PA to Sindh provincial minister Mr. Durrani, was taken by Mohajir terrorists, believed to be affiliated to MQM, from his apartment to a torture cell in Karachi. He was tortured to death by electrocution and later dumped in front of a local hospital. This was stated by none other than the provincial minister himself during a highly emotional press conference.

MQM Eyes KDA

MQM has launched a new twist in a series of tantrums to undermine the Sindh government's authority. MQM has asked that KDA be handed over to MQM Mayor of Karachi.

Mengal Returns Home

Sardar Attaullah Mengal, former chief minister of Balochistan, returned to Pakistan from a self-exile in London after 10 years. He was accorded a historic welcome in Quetta. He returned home to attend the funeral of a veteran Balochi politician Mir Bizinjo.

One More Alliance

Mumtaz Ali Bhutto, former governor of Sindh, has met with many Balochi leaders, including Dr. Abdul Haye Baloch, to forge a new alliance. He also met Mr. Rasool Bux Palejo, a leader of ANP, to discuss the new alliance.

Split Sindh Resources

Mr. Sarwar Awan, a PPI leader, has said that the Sindh situation will continue to worsen until Sindh resources are divided among different population groups in Sindh. He said Punjabis and Pathans are one third of Sindh population, but will be content receiving only 25% of the Sindh resources. He also went on to say that 50% of Sindh resources can be retained by Sindhis themselves, whereas, remaining 25% can be given to Mohajirs.

Amnesty International Knows

World Sindhi Congress has provided documentary evidence to the Amnesty International regarding atrocities against Sindhis in Pakistan. The Amnesty has indicated that their Pakistan Coordinator and Pakistan Researcher will look in to the matter.

SAUKE Denies Merger With PPP

It was reported in the press that SAUKE has joined PPP. It was, however, denied by SAUKE leadership, and the news was attributed to rumor mongering Urdu press.

Sindhis Meet Rajive Gandhi

A delegation of Indian Sindhis met Rajive Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, under the leadership of Kirat Babani. He asked Gandhi that five seats in the parliament be reserved for 4 million Sindhis who live in India. Mr. Babani requested Mr. Gandhi to take immediate action to fulfill political and social demands of Sindhis. Mr. Gandhi listened carefully and instructed his secretary for action.

Sindhu Desh Flag Hoisted

Supporters of G.M. Syed, who had come to receive him at Sukkur air port, brought down the Pakistan flag from the air port building and instead hoisted "Sindhu Desh" flag. This had created a strong reaction from opposition forces and Punjabi PPP leaders. Latest news confirms the arrest of Mr. G.M. Syed after strong protest from MQM and PPP leaders.

Warrant for Dr. Hamida Khuro

Police called at the residence of Dr. Hamida Khuro in Karachi with non-bailable arrest warrant. Dr. Khuro was not at home. It was not known what were the charges against her.

MQM - An Organized Terrorist Force

In sharp contrast to the position held by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, some key players in Sindh have written analysis, saying that "Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) is an organized terroristic force."

Notwithstanding the MQM's historic election victory in December last year and its signing of an accord with the ruling Pakistan People's Party, the Karachi Police Chief, Mr. Afzal Shigri, and other senior security officials, posted in Karachi, had been making requests with the Government to ban MQM, according to some highly placed political and official sources.

"The cold-blooded fratricide qualifies the MQM as a group bent upon destruction of the country", wrote Mr. Afzal Shigri in a report to the Government.

In a plea for a massive crack-down on MQM just before the elections, the Karachi Police characterized the MQM as "a tool in hands of RAW or KGB".

In the report, which was received at the provincial Secretariat in Karachi in early November, the Karachi Police chief wrote, that in frontline the MQM holds a sober and national face, while "the underground" activists indulge in "terrorism and sabotage" with what the Karachi Police chief observed, "mathematical accuracy."

It is believed that the understanding between the top leaders never travels to the key Government officials and MQM underlings who have to make day-to-day decisions. Not only the key officials in police and a security agency have accused MQM to carry out terroristic action, but some Ministers and Advisors in Sindh Government also share this view.

Contributions Invited

The publication committee invites your contributions to the SANGAT Newsletter in the form of news items, letters, book reviews, small articles, opinion columns on current issues, etc.

The items for publication should be typed or eligibly hand written. Following maximum limits should be followed:

News items	- 5 lines,	Letters	- 100 words
Book reviews	- 100 words,	Articles	- 2 pages
Opinion columns	- 1 page		

SANA or its publication committee is not responsible for contents of the items sent for publication and reserve the rights to decline publication of certain items. Unpublished items will not be returned unless a self-addressed, stamped envelop is enclosed.

For more details, call SANGAT Newsletter Editor or write to : P.O. Box 11619, Harrisburg, PA 17108 USA.

REFLECTIONS

Feroz Ahmed

On the request of many SANA members I agreed to write this column for SANGAT on a more or less regular basis. I have done so with the hope that it will stimulate thinking on some of the crucial questions facing Sindh today. I certainly do not have definitive answers to any of these problems. And I am sure that my views on some of these issues will be challenged by some readers. In the process of dialogue and discussion we might arrive at a better understanding of, if not find solution to, the seemingly intractable problems of Sindh.

We can begin by focusing on the thoughts and sentiments expressed in St. Louis, Missouri, during the fifth annual convention (I prefer this term over "general body meeting") of SANA on July 1 and 2. Amidst a festive atmosphere, enlivened by the melodies of Abida Parveen and joyous performance by the local amateur artists, the pain and agony of Sindh was clearly heard through the many speeches, interventions, questions and answers that were presented or exchanged inside and outside the hall.

While an overwhelming majority of the participants felt that the People's Party government at the center and in Sindh should be given a fair chance to solve the problems of the country and of Sindh in particular, they also seemed apprehensive of the deals being made with the Mohajir Qoumi Movement (MQM), and gave a sympathetic hearing to Mr. Rasool Bux Palejo. This ambivalence accurately reflected the mood of the Sindhi people and other supporters of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan. But few in St. Louis seemed to agree with Mr. Palejo that the Karachi Agreement and other deals made with MQM by the PPP be rescinded. The MQM question is truly divisive. There are sharp differences about the character and role of the MQM within Pakistan, among Sindhis, inside People's Party, between Sindhi nationalist groups, and even within same individuals (like myself).

As the ethnic tensions continue to rise and the law and order situation continues to worsen in Sindh, the sense of exasperation and frustration in the populace also deepens. While the people want an end to acrimony and violence, and solutions to their pressing problems, the opponents of the present government see to relish the situation in order to make their point. The Sindh PPP's coalition partner in the government, the MQM, seems to have a special knack for weakening its senior partners and strengthening its opponents inside and outside the party, inside and outside Sindh. The MQM has still not grown out of college politics culture of "torh jorh" (wheeling and dealing), blackmailing and demand-making. If it had any maturity, it would have never run to Nawaz Sharif and the IJI. What would it gain by breaking its alliance with the PPP and making one with the IJI? The IJI hardly exists in Sindh, and the Mohajirs have to live in Sindh. They have to cooperate with whatever party enjoying the support of the Sindhi people. At least the PPP has extended its hand

to the MQM on the basis of this axiom. It is a shame that no significant voice was raised in the Mohajir community against these antics of the MQM.

On the other hand, the PPP leadership in Sindh does not seem to have the capability of comprehending the complex urban problems. This holds true both of those who are in the government now and those who are trying to prove themselves to be "holier than thou" from the outside. Engaging in more chauvinistic rhetoric, far from creating solutions, creates more problems. It seems that the PPP leaders do not even have the concept of "scientific approach." Most of them are simply enjoying the "lai" (lust) of ministries. They seem to be a poor match for the energetic and modern, though uncouth, leadership of the MQM. Running a government in this modern day and age requires more than the experience of oppressing the haris and humiliating the kamdars. This is a tragic situation in Sindh.

SANA NEWS

Sindhi Language Conference

Dr. Niranjan Dudani, Senior Vice President of SANA, has started contacting editors of Sindhi newspapers around the world to organize a Sindhi language conference.

New Advisory Committee Members

Mr. Iqbal Tareen and Mr. Anwar Memon have been appointed as the new members on the SANA Advisory Committee.

Brain Storming

Mr. Iqbal Tareen, member of the SANA Advisory Committee, has suggested that a SANA brain-storming session be held at the time of next general body meeting to discuss Sindh situation.

SANA Loan

SANA has provided a loan of \$1,500 to a needy Sindhi student to help him cope with an emergency. This loan was unanimously approved by the Executive Council and supported by many members of the Advisory Committee.

Dr. Kazi Brings the Journal Out

Dr. Aftab Kazi, Vice-President of SANA, has announced the publication of the first issue of his journal, the Journal of Asian and African Affairs. Please call Dr. Kazi for more details or if you wish to subscribe the journal.

Donations Pledged

Mrs. Husna Shaikh, a SANA Advisory Committee member, has finalized a list of donations pledged at the last GBM in St. Louis. The total now stands at \$25,253. There were 51 people who pledged donations. Please send your pledges if you have not done so already.

Life Membership

SANA Executive Council is contemplating to create a new life membership category for those who donated a one time \$1000. Please advise the Executive Council about your feelings on this matter.

Award Committee

Dr. Badarudin Shaikh has formed a committee to formulate rules and regulations regarding SANA awards in recognition of Sindhi students and scientists for the best performance. Dr. Aftab Kazi and Dr. Altaf Memon will be the members of the committee and Dr. Badar Shaikh will be the chairman.

Newsletter Revised

At the recommendation of many members, SANA Executive Council has decided to discontinue SANGAT as it was being published up to its last issue. Instead, the SANA Executive Council has decided to publish a bimonthly newsletter in English only. A publication committee consisting of Dr. Feroz Ahmed, Dr. Altaf Memon and Dr. Razzak Memon was formed and was entrusted with the responsibility to design a format for the newsletter. Dr. Feroz Ahmed issued a memorandum on August 13, 1989 to the Executive Council communicating the publication committee's recommendations. After the Executive Council accorded its approval the work on first issue was started. This is the first issue of the newsletter. Please provide your comments to the Executive Council.

Video History of Sindh

Dr. Mithal Vakasi, a SANA member, has informed SANA that a program of preparation of history of Sindh on video has been launched by SMNA. Renowned writer Mr. Hamid Sindhi has been appointed as coordinator. Several well-known Sindhi writers and scholars will participate in this effort. For more details, please call Dr. Vakasi.

SMNA Education Program

SMNA leader Dr. Mithal Vakasi has announced video education program under the auspicious of SMNA. The program will constitute selection of 12 schools in Sindh and providing them with televisions, VCRs and education tapes on several subjects. For details, please call Dr. Vakasi.

Matrimonial

Mr. Tariq Surahio, a 29 years young business graduate and Muslim Sindhi SANA member, seeks matrimonial relationship with a US citizen or immigrant Sindhi girl. Interested parties may come in contact with him on the phone at (201) 801-0209.

Membership Dues

Mr. Khalid Hashmani, SANA President, has indicated that many members have not paid their annual dues. If you have not paid your dues please do so as soon as possible.

SANA Treasurer's Wife Hospitalized

Mrs. Sheerin Ansari, wife of Mr. Israr Ansari, SANA Treasurer, is hospitalized in a Toronto Hospital Intensive Care Unit. Her condition is characterized serious but stable. SANA Executive Council and members pray for her speedy recovery and offer sincere support to Ansari family.

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Sponsors Needed

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For more information regarding limitations and space allocation, please call Dr. Razzak Memon in Pittsburgh, PA at (412) 823-8201.

Local Sindhis Meet Nusrat Bhutto

Ms. Nusrat Bhutto, Senior Minister Pakistan who was attending the United Nations General Assembly Session, was invited by local Sindhis living in the New York City area. Mr. Anwar Shaikh and Mr. Badar Shaikh, both members of SANA, led the group and communicated to Ms. Bhutto the concerns of Sindhis living in United States, namely the abhorrent conditions in Sindh. She listened to them sympathetically and promised to do her utmost to initiate changes in the province. Also, some Ministers from Sindh Government were present at the meeting. They expressed similar views.

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