



# SANGAT

SINDHI ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

VOL. XIX, No. III

Fall-Winter 2003

## Internal Right of Self-Determination for Sindh

*We should have reasonable control over our natural resources, and be able to preserve our way of life, and be an active and equal partner in the national affairs, says Sani Panhwar, President SANA.*

(An exclusive interview by Shakil Akhtar Rai of The Muslim Observer)

This issue of ethnic identity within a nation-state has baffled politicians, and academics alike, and seems to have defied a solution accepted to all. The United States, the first federal state in history, set political precedents and legal basis for the best available model. Yet, the situation in most developing countries continues to remain in a flux, and at times challenging. Immigrants from nation states in the third world adopt American ideals and see the problems back home from the new prism. The first generation immigrants are typically torn between their emotional loyalty to the place of origin and their appreciation for the new homeland where their future generations are going to live.

In countries like Pakistan the relations between the unrepresentative ruling elite at the center and ethnic entities in the periphery have often been tense, and when not kept within manageable limits led to conflicts, even secession.

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The Galleria Mall Ice Rink

## 20<sup>th</sup> SANA Convention in Houston, TX

Preparations are afoot for holding 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Houston, TX this July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.

The Convention is to be held at The Westin Galleria, a full service, 427-room hotel located in the premier shopping mall of Houston, TX. With its stunning architecture, exceptional store mix and distinctive style of entertainment, The Galleria Mall has established itself as the #1 shopping and tourist destination in the city. The Mall features more than 350 fine stores and restaurants, an impressive ice rink and two Westin hotels. This world-class shopping complex showcases the best names in retailing including Neiman Marcus, Cartier, Gucci, Macy's, Tiffany & Co., Saks Fifth Avenue, The Sharper

Image, Ralph Lauren Collection, Lord & Taylor, St. John, a flagship Foley's and Houston's only Nordstrom. There are several other places of interest, including a park and several restaurants in the vicinity.

The local SANA chapter has formed an organizing committee to oversee the arrangements for the Convention. Mr. Jamil Daudi, head of the committee told Sangat that a discount rate has been negotiated with the hotel management for the rooms. The committee is now in the process of finalizing arrangements with a transportation company for special rates to and from the city's two major airports.

Mr. Daudi said the organizing committee would soon announce the details of the convention.

SANA EC has requested Mr. Mohammad Ali Mahar, General Secretary of the association to coordinate with the local organizing committee.

The SANA EC is giving final touches to other arrangements such as the guest speakers' segment, youth and women programs, annual banquet and the musical evening. The EC has appealed the members of Sindhi community living in North America to make the convention as a 'must - attend' event in their summer schedules.

It is expected that this convention will have a large attendance and will be one of the memorable conventions.

**Published by:** SANA,  
Sindhi Association of North  
America, 4128 W. 163<sup>rd</sup>  
Street Lawndale, CA  
90260-3013 USA

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**Vol.: XIX, No. 3 & 4**  
Fall-Winter 2003

*Editorial comments:*

## Struggle of the people of Sindh

The people of Sindh are engaged in a multifaceted struggle that can't be fought and won on just one, two or three fronts. Since they are besieged by a large number of demons, they have no choice but to confront all of them on all the fronts at the same time.

The struggle doesn't belong to just politicians, human rights activists, journalists, columnists, writers, intellectuals or their likes. All the citizens have to fulfill their duties to the max. That includes the educationists, health professionals, economists, bankers, finance and investment gurus, women leaders, social workers, environmentalists, businessmen, industrialists, computer experts, film makers, producers, musicians, singers, story tellers, anthropologists, technicians, competent organizers, civil servants, critics and activists in all the fields. (There is a need of lots of 'unsung heroes').

Nobody should feel abandoned or left out. There is a tremendous number of things that need to be done. Each and every person can play their part in the well-being and the welfare of the people. It just needs a little commitment. The rest is so easy!

Education is a major field, where people need a lot of help. There must be some people, who should take

it upon them to work selflessly in that field. Same way there should be people to work in other social sectors. The people are crying for help. Please listen to them.

## Army has to be reigned in

Much has been written on the proportions of the army enterprise in Pakistan. Be it business, industries, services, banking, insurance, contracting and agriculture sectors, it is said that the army and its affiliated agencies have become the largest enterprise in the country. It is besides the fact that the armed forces consume the major portion of the national budget leaving almost nothing for economic development or any social sector programs.

It is also said that the major reason behind the frequent army takeovers is the desire of the army establishment to safeguard and promote its own interests with an eye on controlling more national assets.

It is now clear that if this armed Mafia is not stopped, it will destroy the country as it did 32 years ago. There shouldn't be two opinions about it.

The only question being how to do it? I think it is the responsibility of the leaders of the civil society including the opinion makers to come up with ideas how to control this menace.

Some of the things could be:

- Nationalize all army enterprise (including the Fauji Foundation and AWT)

- Drastically cut the defence budget. Give army what we give to education (less than 2% of GNP) and give education sector what we give to army at present

- Restructure/reform army to make it a true national army giving all the

people due representation in all the ranks

- It should be made sure that the indigenous people of Sindh and Balochistan get equal representation in all ranks including the positions of the Corps Commanders

- No civilian positions should be given to army personnel

- No lands to be 'given away' to in-service or retired army personnel for agriculture, commercial or housing purposes. They should be treated as any other citizen of the country

- Also no special treatment for in-service or retired army personnel or any organizations related to them in trade, industry and business sectors or the grant of licenses and permits

- A thorough auditing of all the funds allocated for army expenditure as is done in civilian sectors

- Make the Hamoodur Rahman Commission report public in totality and make it part of the syllabus in schools and army institutions

- A well-respected, high powered, independent judicial commission should be set up to investigate any wrong doings by armed forces personnel and all the other privileged classes including the politicians, judges, journalists, businessmen, industrialists, bureaucrats, feudals, sardars, pirs, etc.

- Help establish a plural, tolerant society based on justice and fairness where freedom of press and independence of judiciary are insured in all the circumstances.

## Has anything changed since 1971?

Newspapers carried a number of articles on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the fall of Dhaka, the emergence of Bangladesh or the break up of Pakistan, whatever one prefers

to call it. The editorial writers, columnists and political analysts discussed the causes that led to the tragic events.

Most of them blamed the military rule and the denial of the political, economic, cultural and democratic rights for the break up of the country. They pointed out that the polity of Pakistan had been under the control of a set of people averse to sharing the power with the people of East Bengal and other smaller provinces. That set of people had grabbed all the powers even before the birth of the country in 1947.

If one looks at the situation, as it is today, it won't be too difficult to realize that not much has really changed in the remaining Pakistan. The country is under military dominated rule; Unitarian form of government is in vogue; smaller provinces are denied the political, economic, cultural and democratic rights; major decisions are taken at a forum where indigenous people of Sindh and Balochistan have no representation; a large section of people is disenfranchised with no participation in the affairs of the state.

Here are two examples that will suffice:

**Share in resources:** One third of all the resources of the country is not made the part of the divisible pool and is spent by the federal government. The Center takes another two thirds of the resources under the divisible pool. As Sindh Finance Minister pointed out recently, his province gets only 14% back out of its contribution to the divisible pool while other provinces get 94% to 150% of what they contribute to the pool.

**Employment:** Senate was told in an answer last week that out of the 52 grade 22 federal government officials only one (1) belonged to the indigenous people of Sindh. The

other communities in Sindh had 6, Punjab had 32, the NWFP had 9 and Balochistan had 4. Friends, if it not injustice then what is it?

**Point to note:** The newspapers had also mentioned another factor responsible for the 1971 debacle: The role of the civil society in the western wing. It did not raise a credible voice against the injustices to 'East Pakistan'. Well, is the civil society faring any better today? Is it speaking against the injustices to the indigenous people of Sindh, Balochistan and some other parts of the country?

## Government-MMA agreement

The recent Government-MMA agreement is another dark chapter in the political and constitutional history of Pakistan. It shows the army can occupy the country at will and later force the politicians to provide a constitutional cover. It also speaks volumes of a society held hostage at the gunpoint with no recourse available to it.

## What is the excuse of ARD?

Many people had hoped the Alliance for Restoration of Democracy, ARD, would be the main force in Pakistan to launch a struggle against the military rule and for the supremacy of the Constitution. It hasn't happened so far. It is any body's guess if any such thing will ever happen. Nobody can imagine how crooked the things have become in this country of over 140 million people.

Some people always considered MMA to be the 'B' team of the government. They thought it was the handiwork of government agencies' a la' IJI. According to their theory the Establishment did not want to take any chances this time. They wanted to have it both ways: A hand picked party in the saddle and another of the

same feathers in the opposition. To achieve that end they had to amend the rules of the game and insure that the leaders of the two major political parties couldn't campaign or participate in the elections while MMA was given freehand to secure unprecedented success at the polls. Talking about the politics in Pakistan, one never knows for sure what lies under the surface. May be all the allegations against MMA are true. May be they are not.

But that is MMA. One wonders what could be the excuse of ARD for its incomprehensible paralysis? Why it is in complete disarray? Why does it seem to be rudderless? Why has it allowed itself to be marginalized? Why it has failed to spearhead a movement against the undemocratic, military dominated government? What are its weaknesses? Has it ever tried to take the stock of things? Why some of its leaders are looking to either the hand of divine or the nod of a foreign power? Why they want to come to power one more time after reaching some kind of a 'deal' brokered by some intermediary? Don't they know by now that power attained with the help of 'deals' and 'compromises' isn't worth anything and doesn't last for long?

The situation needs to be tackled more realistically. It is now 56 years that the country came into being but the people have yet to taste the fruits of independence. For most part of its history, it has been ruled by dictatorships. There has almost always been an alliance between the army, the feudals and the bureaucracy. Many religious elements have received patronage in the past. For most part, the country either didn't have a constitution or if there was one, it was either abrogated, violated or put in abeyance. There is no rule of law and the corruption reigns supreme. The country remains divided and many people complain of injustices. Main reason for all the ills is unrepresentative rule and

disenfranchisement of the people. It all can be stopped and the situation could still be saved if the civil society comes together and asserts itself in the affairs of the state. Will it happen?

## Mega water projects and Sindh

One of the salient features of the good governance, as espoused by the government, should be to listen to the citizens of the country without any bent or bias. Can the government claim that it has followed this principle to solve the water issue, which affects the lives of the tens of millions of people? No one could have missed the fact that the people of Sindh have been protesting against mega water projects, including the Greater Thal Canal and the proposed construction of large dams.

It was expected that the government would tackle the highly controversial water issue in a transparent way, in accordance with the Constitution and the agreements reached between the provinces. But the government, bypassing the Constitution (Article 155), has announced formation of two committees to 'solve' the matter.

Apart from the legal status of the two committees, there are a couple of basic matters that are of paramount importance: the composition of the committees and the directives of the president, which actually render the committees ineffective and useless.

One of the two members taken from Sindh on the technical committee has no experience whatsoever in the fields of water and agriculture. His only qualification is that during the president's August 25, 2003 meeting on the water issue in Karachi, he was the only person who had supported the Kalabagh Dam. The other member is a government servant and is bound to obey the official guidelines.

One of the two members from Sindh on the parliamentary committee is the person who has openly supported the government position on the dams. The other member, who is reported to have resigned now, was the brother of the chief minister, who is engaged in an uphill struggle to save his position. Who would have expected that member to speak against the wishes of the general who can change the government in Sindh with a wink?

This member showed his 'interest' in the issue by not attending the meetings of the committee. Perhaps he was doing a favor to the people of Sindh by not attending the meetings as he might have caused more harm by attending them.

One is at loss to understand why no one has been taken from Sindh to represent the views of the majority of the people expressed through recent provincial assembly resolutions and the protest marches held throughout the province, while highly competent people have been taken from other provinces that will fight their cases with all their abilities? Why has Sindh been denied the same privilege?

Then come the president's directives to the two committees as carried out by all the major newspapers. The committees have virtually been handed over the decision. All they have to do is to put a seal to it!

Isn't it another attempt by the government to hoodwink the people instead of handling an important issue in an honest and forthright manner? Isn't it a sheer waste of the time and resources of the country too?

## Sani Panhwar: Interview

*Continued From Page 1*

The world order created at the end of the Second World War was based on the right to self-determination. In recent times scholars have drawn distinction between 'internal' and

'external' right to self-determination. The internal right of self-determination basically provides for a "people" to be able to have a full voice within the legal system of the overall nation state, control over natural resources, the appropriate ways of preserving and protecting their culture and way of life and to be able to be a visible partner or participant with strong powers within the overall national polity.

External self-determination arises when a 'people' finds that this internal concept is not being accepted, and the right to full sovereignty, including the right to international recognition of that people, comes into play.

In the real politics this distinction is often blurred, and manipulated in favor of the more powerful. An ethnic religious minority demanding its rights is quickly dubbed as 'traitors', 'agents of foreign powers' and at best 'misguided'.

In the case of Pakistan this question has painful memories and dangerous portends. Political history of Pakistan is a struggle between the proponents of strong central government – often led by civil-military bureaucracy – and the champions of provincial autonomy. The secession of the more populous province in 1971 was the direct result of eleven years of military rule and denial of political-economic rights of the people of East Pakistan. The trauma led to the adoption of the 1973 Constitution granting adequate provincial autonomy to the remaining federating units. Yet, this did not stop the military to take over at will and continue to rule in suppression of the Constitution to the exclusion of the representatives of the people, and at the expense of the minorities.

The situation leads to disenchantment among the federating units. Political manifestation of these feelings provides the military rulers a justification to claim that the

federation is in danger and needs an even stronger central government.

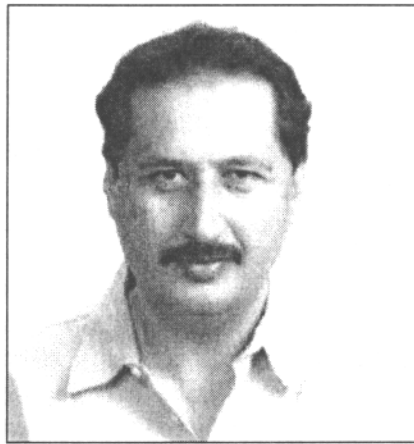
This is the background in which the Sindhi Association of North America (SANA) was founded in 1985 when the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) challenged General Ziaul Haq's rule and was suppressed with iron hand. The Sindhi immigrants in the U.S. found it necessary to get themselves organized not only for their political rights in Pakistan but also for the preservation of their language, culture and values in their adopted homeland. Since Zia's military regime, like today's Musharraf's regime, was supported by the U.S. for its strategic objectives it was also imperative to have a forum to express their concerns against this unqualified support to military dictatorship.

SANA held its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in California from 3-6 July; the Muslim Observer was there. In an exclusive interview with the SANA President Mr. Sani Panhwar we discussed the convention, objectives of the organization, the current political situation in Pakistan. Following are the excerpts:

### Interview:

Q-1: When and why the Sindhi Association of North America was formed? What are the objectives and how is it organized?

Sani: SANA was formed in 1985. If you recall Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) was engaged in a political struggle against the military regime of Gen. Ziaul Haq at that time. The military regime had earlier executed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. As you know Bhutto was the first popularly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan and he hailed from Sindh. This added to the sense of deprivation and alienation among the Sindhis. For that very reason resistance against the military regime



*Sani Panhwar, President SANA*

was the strongest in Sindh. When the movement gained momentum in Sindh, it was ruthlessly crushed. The Sindhis living in the U.S. shared the frustration and helplessness of their fellow Sindhis in Pakistan and felt that it was time to get organized and voice their views on matters related to the people of Sindh.

Our membership is open to all Sindhis though it mostly consists immigrants from Pakistan. Our objectives are to create a sense of brotherhood, and cooperation among Sindhis living in North America. To defend the historic national rights, including human rights, and rights of self-determination of Sindhi people within their existing national territory. To promote contact with Sindhis living in different parts of the world, cooperate for common goals and purposes with their organizations. To create awareness about the Sindhi way of life, its values, philosophy, language, literature, and culture.

Q-2: When you say 'the people of Sindh' and that you are 'open to all Sindhis' does it include those who call themselves 'mohajirs' and are mostly living in urban centers?

Sani: We have defined 'Sindhi' in the by-laws of SANA. Sindhi is a person who has roots in Sindh, or has roots in an area where Sindhi or its dialect is spoken, or speaks Sindhi or one of its dialects; supports the preservation and growth of Sindhi civilization, culture and language; and supports the

legitimate rights and aspirations of the Sindhi people.

Q-3: That means the self-proclaimed 'mohajirs' are not included in this definition, as they tend to trace their roots out of Sindh and out of Pakistan?

Sani: If you say you are not rooted in Sindh and after more than half century still call yourselves 'refugees' (mnohajir) then you are saying that your stay in Sindh is only temporary. You are like a passenger waiting on a railroad platform for the next train.

Q-4: There are a number of Sindhi organizations in the U.S., how SANA is different from others?

Sani: SANA is different first and foremost in its democratic ethos, democratic practices, and transparency. Elections of all office bearers are held every two years. Maximum tenure for member to stay in executive position is two terms. This helps in bringing new faces, new ideas and adds to the dynamism of the organization. We are committed to democracy both in our ideals and in practices. Living in the U.S. has taught us the real value and virtue of democracy, and pluralism. Also Pakistan as a nation has been harmed by military dictatorships, and undemocratic practices of elected leaders. That makes our faith in democracy even stronger. SANA is not run by one individual or a particular group of people; it's run by all its members each one of whom has an equal voice.

Unlike some other Sindhi organizations we do not accept financial support from any source, in any form from outside. As you may know that minority ethnic organizations are sometime used by unfriendly foreign powers to advance their own agenda in the target state, and financial support is one strong tool in this context. Also the establishment in the concerned state



tends to brand every dissenting ethnic, political entity an anti-state. We therefore make a conscious effort to stay clear of any such doubt. Our only source of financial support is contribution from the members.

Q-5: The tragic events of 9/11 have created a new situation for every one particularly the Muslims in America. How your organization reacted to the terrorist attack and has coped with the changed situation?

Sani: We condemned the 9/11 attack through our website as an act of terrorism. At the same time we offered assistance to anybody in need. We received a number of calls from our members and some from non-members, as well.

Q-6: What were the recommendations, and resolutions of the latest 19<sup>th</sup> annual convention of SANA held in Los Angeles?

Sani: SANA holds its convention every year on the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Our members travel from all over the U.S. and Canada, and guest speakers, and artists are invited from Pakistan. The guest speakers provide first hand information about the latest developments in Sindh and help us chart our future course of action. The occasion provides the participants an opportunity to have personal social interaction. The 19<sup>th</sup> convention was attended by over 300 members.

Q-7: What was the most important issue in this convention, and how you plan to deal with it?

Sani: Water problem and the construction of Thal Canal was the most important issue. Almost every speaker expressed views on the issue, voicing concern how the plan would deprive Sindh its share of water and harm its economic and ecological interests.

Q-8: Water shortage is a serious problem for all parts of Pakistan and many other countries as well. How

best the water issue can be resolved between Sindh and Punjab?

Sani: The convention adopted a resolution on the distribution of Indus water between Punjab and Sindh and demanded stopping work on the Greater Thal Canal. At present, even without the Thal Canal, Sindh is getting very little or no water below Kotri Barrage for lower Sindh and the delta. As a result the level of seawater has been rising constantly and destroying arable land in the Indus delta. Even in the upper Sindh, the flow of the water has been decreasing. A landowner who could cultivate 100 acres of land say 10 years ago is now barely able to cultivate three acres because of water shortage. Wildlife along the Indus is disappearing because scarcity of water is destroying their natural habitat. The situation is creating an ecological, and economic disaster for the people of Sindh.

Q-9: What is so important about the Thal Canal?

Sani: It is the army that's taking advantage of its political ascendancy. The canal is primarily meant to irrigate the lands allotted to Pakistan military high ups in the Thal desert. The land has been allotted to them free of cost or sold to them at a throw away price. When the price of land has gone up almost 300 times since 1960, the army officers have been allotted vast tracts of land at prices determined more than four decades ago. Now they are building this canal to make their desert lands arable at the cost of the people of Sindh. The Sindhis find themselves helpless, angry and frustrated. This issue has created a situation that can be compared with the disenchantment of the people of East Pakistan. We request the military leadership of Pakistan to consider the damage this canal project would do to the people of the country.

The current military ruler of Pakistan, Gen. Pervez Musharraf was here in

June. We held peaceful demonstrations to impress upon him the need to stop construction of Thal Canal, restore democracy in Pakistan, and respect human rights.

We believe in the internal right of self-determination whereby the people of Sindh should have voice within the existing legitimate system, as different from the usurped system of military dictatorship. We should have reasonable control over our natural resources, and be able to preserve our way of life, and be an active and equal partner in the national affairs.

Q-10: Establishment does not look favorably at the ethnic organizations. They are suspicious of their ulterior motives. Would you like to comment with reference to SANA?

Sani: We are all Pakistanis; our future is linked with Pakistan. We want to live as part of the federation, but do demand our fair share of water and all other resources. Demanding our rights does not and should not cast any doubt upon our patriotism. As I said earlier we have no hidden agenda. Our organization is transparent and democratic.

## **An irrigation expert rebuts Musharraf's mumbo-jumbo**

Since last few months, dictator Musharraf has been trying to mislead the people on the water issue that includes the construction of more dams upstream and the 'Greater Thal Canal'. May be it is the strategy of the armed forces to spread misinformation in the country to distract the people and create a clouded atmosphere so that they can forestall opposition moves against their conspiratorial policies - and their illegal rule.

Here are excerpts from an article published in daily Kawish (9/24/3), written by former Provincial Irrigation Secretary, Mr. Mohammad Idris

Rajput, who is considered an expert on water issues. Mr. Rajput is privy to many high level deliberations on the water issue and has participated in several IRSA and other important meetings. It may be recalled that few days back he had belied the myth of the so-called '35 MAF water being "wasted" downstream Kotri'. (A.N.).

Here are the excerpts:

"President Musharraf has mentioned these main points in his address on 13th September:

1) Punjab sacrificed in the (1991) Water Accord. Its share was decreased by 2% and Sindh's share was increased by 1.2%

2) Under Clause 13 of the Water Accord, a headquarter was to be established for IRSA. The same was established in Lahore but to restore Sindh's confidence, I moved it to Islamabad

3) The 1994 arrangement is in contravention of the Water Accord. The Accord should be followed but it is connected to the clause for construction of new reservoirs

4) Under the Accord it is necessary to provide water for downstream Kotri. A study will be conducted in that regards but water will be provided after the construction of new dams

5) Thal, Reini and Kachhi canals will carry flood water and will operate 75-90 days

6) It is wrong to say that the work on the Greater Thal Canal started without prior necessary approval

7) Dam(s) is/are in the interest of Sindh

8) Opponents of the dams should come up with alternates

9) Injustices have been done to Sindh in the past though not during my

government. I apologize for past injustices

Lets analyze these points mentioned by the president and see what is true and what is false.

#### 1. Punjab's Sacrifices:

The figures presented by the Pakistan Government at the time of Indus Basin Treaty were not according to the previous water agreements with Sindh. Government of Sindh registered her objections on it. A federal Secretary Mr. Khalili acknowledged these objections and promised to appoint a committee/commission to decide on them. Punjab, benefiting from its position of being upstream province, gradually increased its use of water in illegal manner.

Several Commissions/committees were formed to study the water disputes between the provinces. When discussions were held to reach the 1991 Accord, Punjab was using 54.39 MAF while Sindh consumed 43.7 MAF. Under the Accord Punjab received 55.91 MAF and Sindh got 48.76 MAF. Thus the share of Punjab was INCREASED by 2.8% under the Accord. It is not correct that Punjab share was decreased by 2%. It was already consuming MORE water than its share and its share was further INCREASED! There is no truth behind the statements that Punjab has sacrificed and its share was decreased.

#### 2. Restoring Sindh's Confidence:

How is it possible to restore Sindh's confidence by merely moving IRSA headquarter from Lahore to Islamabad? It is just a cosmetic change. The real steps that will restore the confidence and will create an atmosphere of trust are not being taken. For example:

- no water is being provided for downstream Kotri

- not even study is conducted as required in the Accord

- water is not distributed according to the ten dailies as mentioned in the Accord

- water is stored in Mangla Dam when there is acute shortage of water in Sindh

- different policies implemented in respect of the NWFP and Balochistan compared to Sindh

If that is the case then what does the president mean when he talks of the restoration of Sindh's confidence?

#### 3. Working in contravention of the Accord:

The president has accepted that the distribution of water under the 1994 arrangement is in contravention of the (1991) Water Accord. Then why doesn't he stop that illegality and make sure that water is distributed according to the ten dailies mentioned in the Accord? Why does he make it subject to the construction of new dams? **It is nowhere written in the Accord that water will be distributed among the provinces under the 19991 Agreement only after the construction of new dams.**

#### 4. Water For Downstream Kotri:

President makes the provision of water for downstream Kotri subject to the construction of new dams. It is wrong. Why can't water be provided for downstream Kotri before the construction of new dams? Water from dams is used in 'Rabi' season. We talk of downstream Kotri water during the 'Kharif' season. It doesn't have anything to do with the construction of any dams. The argument to link the two things is invalid.

#### 5. Flood Water Canals:

President has said that Thal, Kachhi and Reini are flood canals and will only operate for 75-90 days. The fact

is that none of them is a flood canal according to the PC-1 as prepared for each canal. Thal and Kachhi will operate during whole the 'Kharif' season while Reini will operate during whole the 'Kharif' season except 20 days of April.

#### 6. Work on Greater Thal Canal Started Without Approval:

President says it is wrong to say that work on Greater Thal Canal was started before getting prior approvals.

Well here are the facts:

- It is necessary to prepare feasibility before the start of a project

- for a water project it is required to secure a certificate from IRSA to the effect that water is available for the project

- PC-1 is prepared and necessary approval is obtained from CDWP and the ECNEC

- Administrative approval is obtained, money is released and then the work is started

But this is what happened in the case of the Greater Thal Canal:

- President laid the foundation stone and work started on August 16, 2001

- No feasibility was prepared

- CDWP cleared the scheme on February 8, 2002

- ECNEC approved the project on February 28, 2002

- IRSA issued the water availability certificate on May 7, 2002

- All these approvals were secured 6-8 months AFTER the start of the work on the project. How does the president say that the work didn't start before getting necessary approvals? What do the facts tell?

#### 7. Interests Of Sindh:

Dams could be in the interest of Sindh only if their construction in no way has any harmful effects for the province; water is filled in the dams when there is surplus water, meaning that only carry over dams are constructed; they are constructed at places where it is not possible to build irrigation canals; priority should be storage of water for irrigation and not the generation of power; the most important point is that the minimum of 10 MAF water for downstream Kotri should be guaranteed.

#### 8. Alternates To Construction Of Dams:

It is wrong to say that if new dams are not constructed, there won't be any progress or development in the country and that there are no alternates to the construction of new dams.

Dams are mainly constructed for generating power and irrigation purposes. For electricity, 'Run of the River' dams can be built as the Ghazi Bharothis Dam. Tar Coal may be used to build huge power plants. For irrigation purposes, small, carry over dams can be built. Lining of watercourses and some of the canals can greatly help. Improving water management is another key to increased agriculture production.

#### 9. Injustices To Sindh:

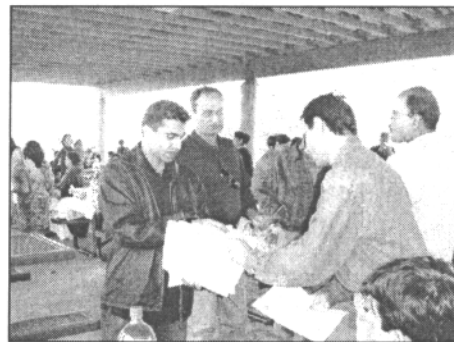
President claims that no injustice has been done during his government. Well, would the president tell us why Governor Daudpoto and Irrigation Minister A. N. G. Abbasi were forced to resign during his government?

Isn't it during his government that Sindh is being denied its due share as water is being distributed in contravention of the 1991 Accord? Isn't it true that work on the Greater Thal Canal was started without prior approval during his regime? List could be long but it may suffice.

Then the president apologizes for 'past' injustices! Is tendering an apology enough? Isn't it necessary to right the wrongs?

I have presented before the people of Sindh some of the facts regarding the points made by the president. Now they have to decide what is true? What is false and what and who to believe?"

## Community News



### SANA Houston Chapter Picnic and Eid Celebration

On Sunday 30th November 2003 SANA Houston Chapter arranged a picnic at the local Bush Garden. The Pavilion 1 surrounding the green flowery lawn and various rides for the kids was the spot reserved at the garden. A large gathering of Sindhi families participated and enjoyed the mild cold sunny Houston weather. Prior to the lunch, groups of ladies and men had fun and participated in *Kuchahries*. It was potluck and the food was prepared with large variety of dishes. The food was tasty and more enjoyable with Sindhi music in the background.

After lunch Zafar Agha and Jamil Daudi thanked every body for making the gathering a very pleasant occasion. Jamil Daudi also provided details about SANA 2004 Convention and requested every Sindhi in Houston to take part in making the convention a real success and memorable.

After that brief speeches Adi Fouzia Daudi and Ghulam Mohiuddin sang



## **Eid and Diyari celebrated together**

Washington, DC: December 7, 2003: The current office bearers of the local chapter of Sindhi Association of North America (SANA) once again pulled through an innovative and wonderful idea of organizing a combined get-together to celebrate Eid and Diyari. The Sunday brunch and associated festivities started at 1 PM at the beautiful party room of the Crystal Place and continued beyond 5 PM.

It is rare that the important festival dates of many of the world's great religions occur so close to each other. This year was an exception that Washington Sindhis hope will bring peace, prosperity, fairness, and justice to the people of the world. The Hindus of the world have just celebrated Diyari and Muslims are celebrating the end of holy month of Ramazan all over the world. The Jews and Christians of the world are busy in preparing to welcome Hanukkah and Christmas later this month. Indeed, it is so befitting that the spirit of Sindhiyat inspired Washington Sindhis to take a small step towards bringing world's religious communities little bit closer. Luckily, the world was not oblivious to this great Sindhi event as a reporter from the Voice of America (VOA) radio was there to record this historic event to be broadcast later on their Urdu program.

This get-together was also unique in that the organizers had proposed a dress theme – Sari for the females and Shalwar-Kamiz-Ajrak for males. To encourage adherence to the theme, the organizers promised to award nice prizes to those who won the most admiration from the rest of participants. Although it was not mandatory, most participants turned up in the theme attire creating an environment similar to that of Sindhi fashion show and 'mello'. The organizers had prepared a menu in

advance and assigned dishes to each family to ensure a good variety and abundance of food. To further complement the festive mood, ada Sarfraz Memon had arranged a large 72-inch TV screen where DVDs of Sindhi concerts recently organized by Kawish (the Sindhi newspaper and Satellite Television Network group) constantly played. It was so heartening to observe hundreds of thousands of people in Hyderabad, Larkana, Nawabshah and many other Sindhi cities enjoying Sindhi poetry and music.

More than fifty persons attended the event. The formal segment of the program started with Duwa and a two-minute silence in the memory of mother of Adi Yasmeen Memon and father of adi Naila and ada Nadeem Talpur, who recently passed away. This was followed by welcome remarks by the organizers. The delicious 10-course brunch immediately followed the introductions. The lunch and informal katchaharies continued for more than one hour. Finally the moment that every one was waiting came – the time to judge the persons who were best in the theme attire. Each attendee was given a voting slip and each competitor was asked to introduce himself/herself.

The lively process of voting and humorous commentary by some made it one of the funniest events for Washington Sindhis. The votes were tallied but to the relief of every one, the fun was not going to end so soon as it was a tie. The top two vote-receivers had to walk in front of the crowd and put a fashion show and those who received the highest applause were to be declared as winners. When it was all said and done, the well-deserving wife and husband team of Hafsa and Iqbal Khawaja came out as winners and received two beautiful presents by the organizers.

Soon the departing time came and the audience profoundly thanked Adi Yasmeen Memon, adi Reno Ahuja, and ada Mansoor Qureshi for their wonderful arrangements. Indeed it

was one of the most memorable gathering of Washington Sindhis.

*Posted by Khalid Hashmani*

## **FAME Fund**

*Report by Zafar Agha*

During last convention in Los Angeles, I was assigned the task of managing FAME Fund. I do realize that I am bit late in initiating the process for the Academic Year 2003-2004, but I will put all possible efforts to organize and manage this task in best possible way.

### **FAME FUND - INTRODUCTION:**

Dr. Feroz Ahmed, who died in 1996, was a prominent Sindhi social scientist and educator. Dr. Feroz Ahmed was a professor in the School of Social Work at Howard University Washington D.C. Dr. Ahmed taught at several universities in the United States, Canada and Pakistan, and lectured worldwide during the last twenty years. He dedicated his life for promoting justice, peace, and equal social, political, and economic rights for all individuals and nations. He wrote extensively about issues that related to South Asia in general and Sindh in particular. During 1998 SANA established an educational fund to tribute to Dr. Feroz Ahmed. Through Dr. Feroz Ahmed Memorial Educational Fund (FAME Fund), SANA awards some exceptional Sindhi students in their pursuit of undergraduate and post-graduate studies at any reputable university in Pakistan. For the academic year 2003-2004, FAME Fund will confer the following awards:

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

### **PURPOSE:**

To financially support the education of six (6) meritorious Sindhi students who are pursuing education at a

of six (6) meritorious Sindhi students who are pursuing education at a University in Pakistan.

#### **SOURCE:**

SANA FAME Fund, and friends like yourself.

#### **WEB SITE:**

[http://www.sanalist.org/Fame\\_Fund.htm](http://www.sanalist.org/Fame_Fund.htm)  
e-mail: [fame\\_fund@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fame_fund@sbcglobal.net)

Mailing Address:

FAME Fund,  
2920 Holly Hall  
Houston, Texas 77054,  
USA

#### **THE TEAM:**

The following team is comprised to manage the task:

1. Zafar Agha Engineer, Houston, Texas
2. Ghulam Mohiuddin Memon Engineer, Houston, Texas
3. Nawaz Ali Bhutto Director H R Development Center, Elsa Kazi Campus, University of Sindh
4. Ghulam Nabi Morai Retired Director National Highway Authority Pakistan, Hyderabad Sindh

#### **THE TASK:**

To invite and review applications and grant scholarships to the selected students.

#### **THE PROGRAM:**

1. December 1 through December 15, 2003 - Notification about invitation of application through SANALIST, various Sindhi organizations, Universities in Pakistan, and through Newspapers in Pakistan.
2. 15 February 2004 - Last date for receiving applications.
3. 15 March 2004 - Selected students will be notified and scholarships will be awarded.

Myself and the above team members will do our best to carry out this task in best possible way. We also look forward to you cooperation and generous contribution to this noble task. With your contributions we will be able to increase the number of applications and will provide more financial support to deserving students in Sindh. Please forward your contribution to Treasurer SANA, 1213 Ladera Court, Davis, CA 95616 USA.

#### **FAME Fund: Applications invited for 2004 awards**

Applications have been invited from competent students for the awards of FAME Fund 2004 scholarships in the following categories. Applications must be submitted on the designated application forms. These forms can be obtained from the Internet at [http://www.sanalist.org/fame\\_fund.htm](http://www.sanalist.org/fame_fund.htm)

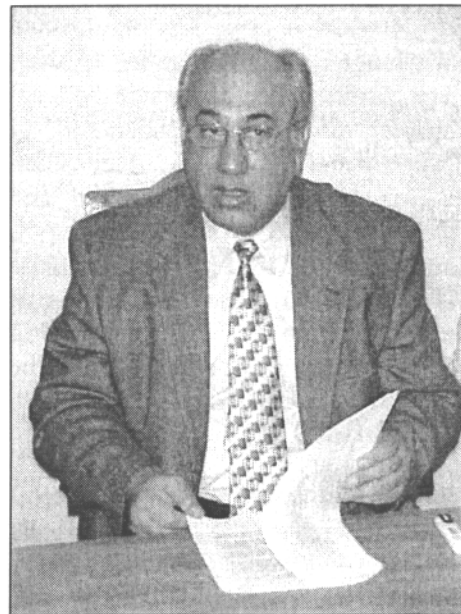
A) UNDERGRADUATE (BACHELOR'S) Medical Sciences, Engineering, Agriculture & General Sciences 4 total, each at US \$250.00

B) GRADUATE (MASTER'S AND Ph.D.) Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (Research topic on Sindh, Sindhi Culture, Sindhi Society, and/or Sindhi Diaspora) 2 total, each at US \$500.00

Completed forms, along with required documents, must reach the following address by March 15, 2004. Please also include recommendation letters from two Professors from within your department along with their contact address, e-mail, and phone numbers. Incomplete applications will be disqualified.

Applicants must be currently enrolled or have proof of admission in an educational institution in Sindh before December 2004. Any questions or inquiry pertaining to the above fund can be addressed to [fame\\_fund@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fame_fund@sbcglobal.net) or to the above mentioned postal address.

*Posted by Ghulam Mohiuddin Memon  
Member SANA FAME Fund Team*



## **Iqbal Tareen visits Sindh**

*Calls for a shift in paradigms*

Iqbal Tareen, former president SANA, visited Sindh recently. During his visit, he addressed some gatherings, press conferences and a seminar on the issues facing Sindh. He received fairly good coverage in Sindhi, Urdu and English press. Here is a news item about one of his press conferences published in daily Dawn (January 14):

**HYDERABAD, Jan 13:** Sindhi Association of North America leader Iqbal Tareen has protested against construction of more dams on the Indus River and depriving Sindh of its primary right over Indus waters.

He was speaking at a Meet the Press programme at the press club here on Monday. Mr Tareen said if the government saw the Bagliar dam project as a source of dispute between India and Pakistan, how could it justify the Kalabagh dam project as an act of harmony between Sindh and Punjab.

He said the Kalabagh dam, Thal canal and usurpation of Indus waters were issues which posed threat to the national security of Pakistan. Quoting

from a recent United Nations study, Mr Tareen said wars in this century would be fought over the issue of water distribution between various nations.

He regretted that Sindhis had remained marginalized and they had been facing issues of provincial autonomy, status of Sindhi language, poverty and disease, misplaced resources allocation, unemployment and distribution of water.

He wondered why a Sindhi agenda could not be pushed into the mainstream of politics in the 21st century if a handful of youth could do so 37 years ago. Mr. Tareen, the founding president of the Jeay Sindh Student Federation, urged intellectuals and professionals to join hands for the common agenda. He believed that real progress in Sindh could take place with a shift in paradigms.

## A Birthday Party in NJ

Mr. Falaksher Ahmed & Mrs. Sara Ahmed celebrated their son Shahmir Ahmed's 7th birthday on Saturday, January 17th at 7pm.

Following Sindhi families attended the occasion:

Mr. Kohsher Ahmed & Family.  
Mr. Sajjad Siddiqui & Family.  
Dr. Kamran Hamirani & Family.  
Mrs. Saeeda Abro & Family.  
Dr. Noor Rajpar & Family.  
Mr. Nadeem Junejo & Family.  
Dr. Iqbal Jafri & Family.  
Mr. Khalid Channa & Family.  
Mr. Masood Channa & Family.  
Mrs. Koonj Bughio & Family.  
Mr. Naeem Soomro & Family.  
Mr. Gul Muhammad & Family.  
Mr. Nadeem Soomro & Family.  
Mr. Zia Memon & Family.  
Mr. Shakoor Awan & Family.  
Mr. Javaid Soomro & Family.  
Mr. Abid Shah.

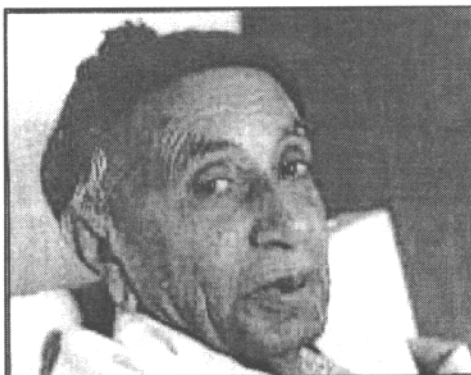
Mr. Sameer and Zameer Vistro.

Mr. Naveed Soomro & Family and Mr. Roshan Shaikh & Family were not able to attend the party.

The Food was very delicious and was catered from a famous restaurant in NJ these days (Shahnawaz Restaurant). The cake was very delicious too. Congratulations to Falak Sher Ahmed's Family for arranging this wonderful birthday party and Sindhi gathering. Folks one thing I like about this gathering was that this was just an excuse to be with Sindhis - our own Sindhi brothers and sisters from the same Mother Sindh. We were the last guests who left Falak Sher's house around 12 am. Another best thing was that we were invited again to other Sindhi Family house on Sunday for a lunch and we met there with some other Sindhi Families.

I urge all the members at least once a month each family should invite at least one or 2 Sindhi families just for a chat. It does not have to be a party it can be one dish too or even for a cup of tea.

*Posted by Sajjad Siddiqui*



## G M Syed remembered

World Sindhi Congress celebrated 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of G. M. Syed in Houston, TX and London, UK on 17<sup>th</sup> January. More than 200 Sindhi men, women and children, attended the event in Houston, TX. Syed Zia Shah, Chairman, G.M. Syed Foundation, was the Program Chair and Dr. Saghir Shaikh; Chairman of

WSC presided over the event. Ms. Noor-un-nissa Ghangro moderated the entire program.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Saghir Shaikh said that Syed has remained an inspiration and guide for the Sindhi nation. He said that Syed believed that the claims of love for an object of desire are only valid if one acquires the full understanding of that object. Thus, it is essential to understand Sindh, its people and history fully, if one needs to work for Sindh.

He informed the audience about the recent establishment of G M Syed Memorial Award by WSC to honor the memory of Syed and to encourage those who share his dreams for the freedom of Sindh and other oppressed nations in Pakistan. Dr. Shaikh further said that last year Sindhi groups in USA joined hands to highlight the water theft from River Indus and other human rights issues related to Sindh.

Mr. Safdar Sarki, ex-chairman of WSC, said that the challenges to our nation are very grave and there is a need of a practical and united strategy. He said such a strategy could only come from people in Sindh.

Dr. Haleem Bhatti, Senior Vice Chairman of WSC, who traveled from London to attend this gathering, paid tributes to Syed's legacy of sticking to principles and his vocal and clear demand of Sindhi people's inalienable right to self-determination.

Mr. Suhail Memon of JSQM said that Syed played a great role in the struggle of freedom movement of Sindh as well as that of the entire Indian Sub-continent.

Mr. Munawar Laghari, Executive Director of the World Sindhi Institute, paid rich tributes to great leader of Sindh and said that Syed has a unique role in Sindh's as well as South Asian history. He stated that G. M. Syed struggled for the rights of Sindhis throughout his life.

Mr. Umed Laghari of WSC read the

message sent by Mr. Bashir Khan Qureshi, Chairman of Jeay Sindh Quomi Mahaz.

Ms. Noor-un-nissa Ghangro in her eloquent speech highlighted the social and welfare aspects of Syed's activism.

Syed Zia Shah, Chairman of G. M. Syed Foundation, said that one of the greatest achievements of Saaeen was to reject the religious fanaticism in Pakistan and preaching of non-violence among Sindhis. He said that this dream of free Sindh would be fulfilled one day.

At the end the audio recording of a, which Syed delivered in 1985 in Sann was played for the audience.

Prominent guests who attended this event were: Aziz Narejo, Agha Zafar, Sarfraz Abbasi, Zeb Agha, Jamil Daudi, Amber Laghari, Paras Sarki, Jamil Daudi, Amar Pohwani, Abha Pohwani, and Navin Bhambani. Several volunteers who participated in the arrangement of this event are Abdul Rehman Kakepoto, Siraj Makhdoom, Malik Dino Shaikh, Zubair Bhambro, Manzoor Shah, Qasim Jatoi, Bashir Shahani, Dr. Nusrat Malik, Rakhshanda Mahar, Sohail Memon, Safdar Sarki, Saghir Shaikh and Dadu Sarki.

At the end dinner was served to all the participants.

## Her Voices From Sindh

on tour to Texas

The World Sindhi Institute has announced that they will bring the program, 'Her Voices From Sindh' to Dallas, TX in the first week of March this year. The program was a great success when it debuted in Washington, DC in March of

2003. It will be in Dallas, TX area from March 5-8. WSI has appealed all the interested people to join this program that will be informative about. The program is being held in honor of the International Women's Day (March 8).

## Sindhi Radio Program

This is a matter of great delight that Mrs. Nasreen Tareen, Vice President SANA, has started a weekly Sindhi Radio Program from Houston, TX. In an email she said that she had recently started doing the weekly Sindhi program on a local radio station in Houston, TX 1180AM. This program is being broadcast as a part of Saleem and Zara Syed's 'Young Tarang' program.

She said: "it is a great way to make people aware of our culture and our land and the response I've gotten, not only from Sindhis, but all the Pakistanis and Indians is overwhelming. I am still trying to do this on a bigger level in the future."



## Bhutto's 76th birth anniversary Observed

Celebratory functions were held on 5<sup>th</sup> January in Pakistan and in diverse world capitals and cities by workers of Pakistan People Party

to mark the 76th birthday of the Party's founder Chairperson at which glowing tributes were paid to the PPP's apex leader and ex-Prime Minister of Pakistan, late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

In Pakistan functions were held in Islamabad and provincial capitals besides other cities and towns.

## House warming party

On our eastern side of USA at Philadelphia, Vice President of SANA, Sajjad Siddiqui set up the house warming party for his new house on September 20th, 2003.

It was totally a huge Sindhi gathering basically. There were lot of Families who came from all over the tri-state area, approximately 100 people attended the gathering. Sindhi music of Abida Parveen was going on in the background. Sindhi food was served and enjoyed by everyone. Kids were playing all over the place.

Following guests were there and Ada Khalid Channa got the chance to confirm with some guest for their SANA membership renewal.

Zia Memon n Family NewYork  
(Former Vice President SANA)  
Badar Shaikh n Family NewYork  
Shakoor Awan n Family NewYork  
Khalid Channa n Family NewJersey  
(Regional Secretary EastCoast SANA)  
Masood Channa n Family NewJersey  
Dr. Noor Rajpur Family NewJersey  
Dr. Ali Abro Family NewJersey  
Atif Javed n Adi Knooj Bhugio  
Family NewJersey  
Dr. Kamran Hamirani n Family  
NewJersey  
Jamil Qazi n Family NewJersey  
Nadeem Junejo n Family NewJersey  
Farid Shaikh n Family NewJersey  
Dr. Shafia Munir DE  
Imran Bhutto n Family MD  
Zahur Siddiqui n Family PA  
Nazir Memon n Family PA  
Wazir Memon n Family PA



Ahmer Memon n Family PA  
 Mazhar Memon n Family PA  
 Shahana n Family PA  
 Saeeda Mufti n Family PA  
 Zia Mufti n Family PA  
 Shahid Baluch n Family PA  
 Zaki Ahmed and Mehroo Apa  
 Family PA  
 Kohsher Ahmed n Family New  
 Jersey (Information Secretary  
 SANA)

*Posted by Kohsher Ahmed*

## Eid Milan in NJ

An Eid Milan party was held on November 29, 2003, at Mazzah Restaurant in Edison, New Jersey

It was wonderful to see all 120 young and kids, most of the Sindhi families from Tri-state (NJ/NY/PA) were gathered to celebrate EID MILAN Party.

Food was delicious, every one really praised for the Mazzah Restaurant and very eager to celebrate the next Eid Milan party for upcoming Eid.

Falaksher was busy with kids having Quiz on Sindh and its history. Every Kid got the prizes from their parents as well as from the Quiz compition results.

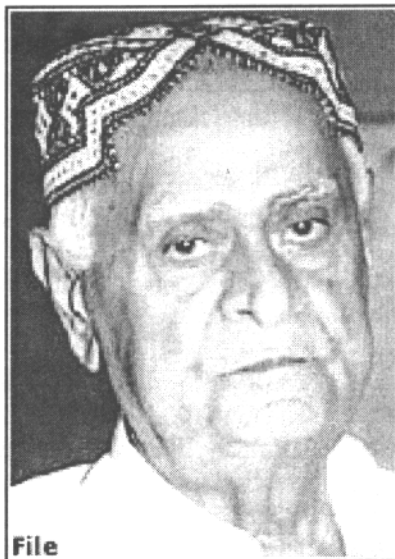
I congratulate to every one who helped us to oraganize this EID MILAN PARTY SUCCESSFUL EVENT, specially Adi Saeeda Abro, Falakshere, Ada Khalid Channa (Regional Secretary SANA), Ada Sajjad Siddiqui (Vice President SANA ).

*Posted by Kohsher Ahmed*

## Krishan Sharma honored

December 10, 2003 – The recently released Sindhi human rights activist Krishan Sharma received an award from the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA). The event was sponsored by

the office of Senator Patrick Leahy and held at the Russell Senate Caucus room of the US Senate on the 2003 Human Rights Day. The Washington DC-based World Sindhi Institute (WSI) nominated Mr. Sharma for the UNA-NCA award for his services to downtrodden people of the "Thar" area of Sindh.



## Hameed Jatoi passes away

Veteran parliamentary and nationalist leader Abdul Hameed Jatoi died in Hyderabad on Saturday night, January 10.

He had come to Hyderabad to attend the wedding ceremony of his granddaughter and was having dinner when he collapsed and died. He was 82 and had been suffering from some kidney ailment.

Mr Jatoi leaves behind five sons, including Federal Minister Liaquat Ali Jatoi, MPAs Sadaqat Ali Jatoi and Ehsan Ali Jatoi, eight daughters and his two wives. His body was taken to his native village, Betto Jatoi, in Dadu district where his funeral prayers were offered. He was buried at his ancestral graveyard.

Thousands of people attended the last rites as business activities across Dadu came to a halt in mourning.

Mr Jatoi had joined the Muslim League in early 1940s and was elected to the Sindh Assembly in 1953. He was one of the few MPAs who had opposed the creation of the One Unit.

He was elected to the National Assembly in 1970, 1985 and 1996, and was one of the founding members of the Pakistan People's Party. However, he revolted against Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and criticized him on the floor of the National Assembly. He was arrested thrice during the then Bhutto government.

He was also among the MNAs who had supported the demands of Shaikh Mujeeb-ur Rehman and refused to sign the 1973 Constitution. Mr Jatoi never compromised on his principles and had opposed the construction of the proposed Kalabagh dam. He was instrumental in the formation of the Sindh National Alliance and was elected its chairman in late 1980s. He had stopped taking part in politics after the death of his son, former senator Aijaz Jatoi, seven years ago.

## Selections of Shaikh Ayaz's works in English

Saleem Noorhussain has translated selected poems and prose of the legendary Shaikh Ayaz into English and the collection is called *Songs of Freedom*.

*Songs of Freedom* is a collection of 'Shaikh Ayaz's selected poems that appeared in four of his books, *Keejo Beejal-a Boilio*, *Vijoon Wasan Aayoon*, *Rin-a Te Rimjhim* and *Chand-u Chambeli-a Vull*. The Operas are from his three books *Death of Dodo Soomro* (a three-act play), *Hanging of Bhagat Singh* (a two-act play) and *Bandits of Ranikot* (it is like a play also).

The translator's contribution to art is commendable. Translating Shaikh Ayaz's revolutionary poems which highlight Sindh's plight during the



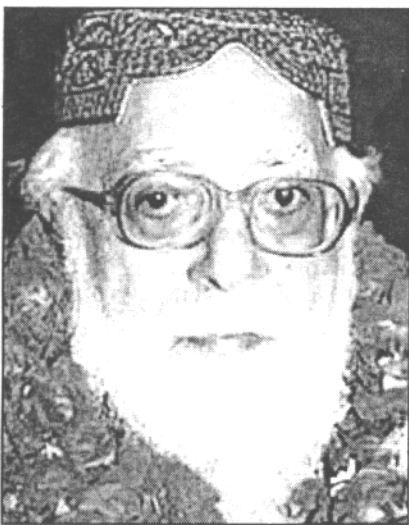
one-unit period gives a sense of awareness of the depravation Sindh is suffering. With native stories like the *Death of Dodo Soomro* and *Bandits of Ranikot*, the book has enough material to sustain the readers interest.--*Rasheed Channa*

## Dr. Mashhood's brother in law passes away

The Brother-in-Law of Dr. Mashhood Qazi, President SANA Canada, Mr Ahmed Ali Memon has passed away in Pakistan.

SANA Canada and several others expressed deepest condolence to Qazi Sahib and the family of Mr Ahmed Ali (Marhoom) and prayed for the deceased.

*Posted by Mr. Sarfraz Gahothi*



## Allama Ghulam Mustafa Qasmi passes away

Eminent Sindhi scholar Allama Ghulam Mustafa Qasmi breathed his last in the wee hours of Wednesday at the Civil Hospital here. He was 98.

Born in a small village of Larkana district of Sindh province of Pakistan Allama Qasmi had retired as the director of Shah Waliullah Academy two years ago. He got his initial education in different religious schools in Sindh and got degree from

well-known Maderessah of Devband.

Allama Qasmi was the author of about 40 books in Sindhi, Urdu, Arabic, Persian and English. He had written Tafseer of Holy Quran in Sindhi and religious background of Sindh was his special subject of studies, research and writings. He translated, edited works of old Sindhi religious scholars like Mohammad Hashim Thatvi, Makhdoom Mohammad Ibrahim Thatvi, Mohammad Jaffar Bukkai, and Qazi Mohammad Akram Nasarpuri.

He had served as chairman of the Sindhi Adabi Board for 12 years, Institute of Sindhology, and other educational institutions of the province.

He had also served as the chairman of Central Ruet Hillal Committee, Academy Adabiat, Islamiyat and Urdu Academy Karachi. He was a student of eminent scholar of the subcontinent Maulana Ubedullah Sindhi in the subject of philosophy. He also served as guide of students of University of Sindh, who did their PhD. He is survived by a widow, three sons, two daughters and thousands of students and followers.

*Report by Riaz Sohail*

## Animated film on Umar Marui

*By Sohail Sangi*

A first in Sindh and possibly first of its kind in Pakistan. Some dedicated people associated with the Information Technology Department, University of Sindh have made an animated film on Umar Marvi. This is a great and pioneering work accomplished. One is proud of the students and teachers behind it.

## I bet Ya' didn't know!

1. Ibrahim Pasha (1798-1848), an Egyptian commander, impressed by the courage of Abdallah Ibn Saud, commander of the Saudi Arabian army he had just defeated in battle, offered to supply the Saudi army with

food, arms, and ammunition so they could continue to fight. Abdallah decided to surrender instead.

2. An impressionist painting entitled "And the Sun Went Down Over the Adriatic," exhibited in 1910 in the Salon des Independents, in Paris, France, won high praise. It was subsequently revealed that it had been done by a donkey with a brush tied to its tail.

3. The women of the Aures Mountain region of Algeria never have to sew a gown. The cloth used is woven in a size and shape that makes it ready to wear.

4. The practice of breaking a bottle over a ship's bow was introduced by the British navy in the late 1600s.

5. Two of the world's five largest cities are in Latin America. Mexico City is #2, and Sao Paulo, Brazil, is #3.

6. The chief Latin American languages are Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

7. After a 2-hour plane flight, about 1 in 5 people catch a cold, likely due to the proximity of other passengers.

8. Four gold rods found in the tomb of King Tut were constructed at an angle of 26 1/2 degrees because that is the angle of the refraction of light, and the ancients expected their monarch's soul to rise to Heaven on a ray of sunlight. The Great Pyramid is also constructed at an angle of 26 1/2 degrees.

## "Instructions For Life"!

- When you're lost, admit it, and ask for directions.
- Stop and watch stonemasons at work.
- Read between the lines.
- Become famous for finishing important, difficult tasks.
- Remember that "how" you say something is as important as "what" you say.

source: Aikens Laughs

*Sent by: Ghulam Mohiuddin Memon (Morai)*

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TAKING RIGHT STEPS



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