



**CITIZENS FOR
A BETTER
ENVIRONMENT**

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

— Margaret Mead

SHEHRI

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WILL GOOD INTENTIONS DELIVER THE GOODS?



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah photographed at his residence.

'SHEHRI' interviewed Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah when he was Minister for Law and Parliamentary affairs.

(This interview was conducted before Mr. Shah became Chief Minister of Sindh).

Unlike most traditional "wielders of governmental power", Mr. Muzaffar Hussain Shah is a surprisingly accessible and pleasant person. Articulate, urbane and sophisticated, he leaves you with the impression that the government expects the public and NGOs to participate in evolving effective legislation for improving the urban environment. Operating in a fossilized framework of deeply rooted monetary interests, where public institutions are often used for private profit, can capable individuals, however well intentioned, actually deliver the goods? Following is a resumé of an interview with him taken at his residence by SHEHRI.

Hussain Rahman for SHEHRI:

Mr. Shah, has the Sindh Government, during your tenure as Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, proposed any legislation for improvement of the urban environment?

M.H. Shah:

Environment is basically a federal subject and does not fall within the parameters of provincial government.

H.R.:

Has there been any move

You have to understand that the ministry does not initiate legislation, nor is it meant to. We simply give a legal language to proposals sent to us by government departments.

from the provincial government to transfer this subject to the provinces considering it is of such vital regional and local importance?

M.H.S.:

We have a Sindh Environmental Protection Agency attached with the provincial Ministry of Housing and Town Planning.

H.R.:

Is it empowered to effect legislation?

M.H.S.:

There is a move towards this that the E.P.A. Sindh should be legally empowered to effect laws. As for the urban environment, such as pollution in Karachi, etc. if the local government and bodies entrusted with the up-keep of Karachi such as K.D.A., propose amendments in existing legislation, or for fresh legislation, the Law Ministry

can look into it and give it form and figure.

H.R.:

It is a well known fact that a number of laws governing land use, zoning and construction are now archaic and need up-dating. Also there are lacunae in many bye laws that enable vested interests to violate the law in spirit and get away with it. Why, in that case, have the law departments of the Government of Sindh and authorities like KDA, not proposed improvements and amendments, so that the law can be implemented in letter and spirit?

M.H.S.:

Because the correct way is not being followed. I have personally, specifically asked concerned citizens to play their role in this area. However, it has to be kept in mind that factors affecting environment fall under various departments. The correct way to go about it is to form pressure groups and lobbies with civic and local bodies and concerned ministries for amendment or fresh legislation. But the concerned citizens and NGOs have to do their homework. They have to collect accurate information and point out the exact lacunae to be eliminated. They have to seek the support of knowledgeable professionals. The next step is to approach the concerned department. Once the concerned department and ministry moves such a sound proposal in the cabinet, the Law Ministry can then give it form and figure.

You have to understand that the Ministry for Law and Parliamentary Affairs does not initiate legislation, nor is it meant to. We simply give a legal language to proposals sent to us by 22 government departments. I would suggest that you make a representation to Mr. Ibraatul Abad, Minister for Local Government, Town Planning and Urban Affairs, with any suggestions you may have for the removal of lacunae in existing laws or proposals for them. They will in turn submit their proposals to us, we will

IS PAKISTAN TURNING GREEN?

Enforcement is the final link in the chain of environmental regulation.

The first link in the chain is a clear cut environmental policy which must be formulated together with the necessary legislation and regulations. This is followed by implementation and an appropriate licensing system. The final stage is enforcement, which ensures that legislation and regulations are complied with and that action is taken against offenders.

It appears that Pakistan is turning green...

- The National Conservation Strategy (NCS) has been adopted.
- Environmental Protection Agencies have been set up in each province.
- Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif headed the Group of 77 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).
- Environmental NGOs are being established. — all of which are indicative trends towards positive change.
- Suo Moto proceedings were initiated by a Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan (Human Rights Case No. 11-K of 1992. Coastal Areas being pononed study shows). The foll. were sum-

moned to court:

- 1) The Secretary, S.I.T.E., Karachi.
- 2) The Chairman/ Secretary, Municipal Committee, East.
- 3) The Secretary, Landhi Industrial Trading Estate, Karachi, based on article that appeared on the front page of SHEHRI. (The article highlighted the fact that highly toxic industrial effluents are being discharged, untreated, into the Mahr and Lyari river beds and thus into the sea. SHEHRI Vol.1, January 1992).

The Court ordered the above mentioned authorities to submit in writing the following:

- a) A list of factories within their local limits which discharge in any form industrial waste.
- b) The arrangements made by them to ensure that industrial effluents are not discharged in the channels, rivers, sea or land without pre-treatment.

Copies of the order to appear before the supreme court were also issued to the Editor, SHEHRI, and Chief Inspector appointed under the Factories Act 1934, to appear before the bench on 12/3/1992 to submit supporting evidence.

give it the necessary legal language and present it to parliament for ratification.

volvement of UNDP...

H.R.:

It was. And yet we all know it was violated by vested interests and continues to be violated. Concerned quarters are of the opinion that it was made possible basically because the masterplan had no legal cover. Can we not provide a legal cover now to stem haphazard construction and rezoning for commercial interests?

M.H.S.:

As I said earlier, the concerned department and the pressure groups have to point out where the legal cover is needed. The exact lacunae have to be underlined.

H.R.:

Mr. Shah you will certainly agree, as a concerned citizen and a Karachiite, that the most unfortunate period in the history of Karachi began in the mid-seventies, (when Mr. Jam Sadiq was the Chief Minister and later when Mr. Nizami was the Director General of the KDA) when private construction for individual profit gained precedence over civic and public needs. Any comments?

M.H.S.:

The Karachi Masterplan for 1974-1985 was, on paper, a good plan. There was the in-

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INTERVIEW WITH MUZAFFAR HUSSAIN SHAH

Cont. from page 1

H.R.:

For a long time now, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation has been demanding to bring Karachi Development Authority under its administration. It may remove the dual character of overlapping jurisdiction and resulting disharmony in the development of Karachi. What is your reaction to this demand?

M.H.S.:

If such a proposal is formally moved in the cabinet by the concerned ministry, it certainly, richly deserves to be examined. But to my knowledge, no such proposal has been moved so far.

(Editor's note: (1) This interview was conducted before the KBCA (Karachi Building Control Authority) was handed over to the KMC. (2) The reference in this question is to the activities of the entire

KDA).

H.R.:

Karachi is periodically in the grip of violence. We have innumerable instances everyday. The connivance of law-enforcing authorities in these misdeeds is often aluded to. Unfortunately, these allegations are not without some substance. The mayor of Karachi has demanded that the city police force come under the authority of the KMC to deal with the situation. Do you think such a move may provide a better solution to the problem?

M.H.S.:

It has to be examined. Administration cannot be tampered with in isolated cases from city to city. Supposing the local bodies of Hyderabad or Larkana begin to make similar demands, are we prepared to have local

body police forces all over the place? One therefore has to examine such a demand in a much larger context.

H.R.:

You would certainly agree though, that the entire machinery of Karachi's civic and local bodies, the legal framework, the actual execution of civic and metropolitan plans badly needs revamping.

M.H.S.:

Karachi has highly educated people and is blessed with plenty of resources. It can be a very fruitful exercise if concerned citizens join hands with the government to solve the various problems of this great metropolis.

At this point Mr. Shah stood up to indicate that the interview was over.

Muzaffar Hussain Shah's responses seemed to indicate

that the people's representatives in the government are waiting for citizens to come forward with viable suggestions etc. that would immediately be taken up by the government.

We were left wondering about the ability of concerned ministers and department heads to grasp the obvious. Do they actually need US to tell THEM that:

IF...

...high density development was only allowed in areas where infrastructure permitted, instead of high rise apartments, shopping centres etc. being crammed into every available (and sometimes unavailable) space, the burden on our basic amenities would be greatly reduced.

...there were more and better maintained parks in

stead of the few scraps of arid land that our city possesses, our children would not be forced to play on the streets.

...garbage collection was better managed and regular, our citizens would not be treated to the sight of mountains of garbage on every street corner.

...coastal water pollution could be reduced and avoided, our waters and our beaches would be safer for all living creatures.

...our public transport system was better developed, instead of the usual smoke-emitting buses and noisy 'rickshaws', our citizens' lives and health would surely benefit.

...all the above could happen, the city and its citizens would be healthier, happier and kinder.

ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD....

The Dutch Minister for Environment on government/industry co-operation - Business and the Environment.

Legislation needs to be framed and scrutinized with care and that takes time. But environmental measures often cannot wait that long. Moreover, developments in the environmental field succeed one another so rapidly that any legislation is bound to be obsolete as soon as it comes into effect. This is why government sometimes reaches gentlemen's agreements with polluters, for example. This method has the advantage that objectives can be achieved more quickly, while industry knows where it stands. On the other hand, gentlemen's agreements lack any legal basis. We publish an interview of the Dutch minister of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment, Hans Alders.

Alders: "Last year we reached an agreement with the business community. We negotiated about a lot of subjects. Usually the cooperation is satisfactory, probably because the aims of our National Environmental Policy Plans (NEPP and NEPP-plus) have widespread public support.

To turn the aims into measures we have to negotiate, which sometimes involves lengthy discussions. However, once the aims have been decided they are not open to discussion. Once this has been made clear, we can usually reach agreement on the implications.

Many sectors of industry have their own associations and organisations. These are expected not only to confer but also to implement measures and get their members to do the same. This is a new responsibility for most of them, but it is inescapable if

they want to be taken seriously.

Agreements are often concluded in writing in order to render them more effective. I don't think agreements are always needed; industry can also abide unwritten rules or anticipate government measures.

It may be appropriate to conclude an agreement in one of the following situations or for one of the following purposes:

- to anticipate forthcoming regulations or financial measures
- when it is expected that rules will become redundant because of environment-friendly techniques, an agreement may bridge the gap until the technique becomes available
- to explore possibilities of imposing regulations or adopting financial instruments"

Abroad, the Netherlands is well-known for its strategic and firm handling of environmental issues. Sometimes companies think it must be hard to operate in the country. What do you think about the reaction of the business community to the Dutch Environmental Policy Plans (NEPP and NEPP-plus)? Have organizations representing different sectors responded differently?

Alders: "The business community needs government policy to be consistent. It couldn't plan its operations if it found out about measures only a month in advance. This is the reason why we decided to publish the Na-

The entrepreneur himself has to see the need for an environmental protection system - otherwise he won't consider starting one. Big companies already feel this need, the smaller ones haven't been under enough pressure yet.

tional Environmental Policy Plans, which clearly state our policy for four years at a time. We confer with the business community about executing these plans.

This is an internationally unique situation, but as I see it, it is the only workable one if sustainable development is to be achieved.

To simply forbid a few products won't help; we need different production methods, a different way of thinking. That is why we want to speak to the business community and involve them at an early stage.

Their problem is that the government expects concrete results, and that it would rather see them today than tomorrow. We want to see what they are planning to do, so that we can keep abreast of developments year by year. This causes a tension we have

to overcome. It would be an illusion to think this will be easy."

By 1994, the Netherlands wants all companies, both big and small, to set up internal environmental protection systems. What do you think of the preparations all parties concerned are making?

Alders: "Early in 1990 we started a programme for internal environmental protection in companies. NLG 50 million is available for this project for a five-year period. The programme seems to be progressing well. Twenty-five sectors are developing model systems. A total of 40,000 companies belong to these sectors.

Another thing which we are working on is encouraging regional environmental services for companies. These services act as the 'general practitioners' of companies in a region. Subsidies are available to start services. The scheme has got off to a good start, too. Eleven services have become operational since 1990, and another six are being organized.

However, although we are satisfied with the way the internal environmental protection programme is running, we are a bit worried about the actual measures taken within some of the individual companies.

The entrepreneur himself has to see the need for an environmental protection system - otherwise he won't consider starting one. Big companies already feel this need, the smaller ones haven't been under enough pressure yet.

At the moment we are

evaluating the programme's results. If they turn out to be unsatisfactory, then we shall probably need to increase the pressure on industry."

CONGRATULATIONS, IUCN!

THE PAKISTAN NCS RECEIVES A GREEN SIGNAL

March 1 was a good day for the environment in Pakistan. That was when the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy was approved by the Federal Cabinet in a special session called to review the Strategy.

This is a momentous event for Pakistan, because it signifies that we as Pakistanis care about our future, and that of our children, to reach a consensus about a plan of action that will conserve our environment, its air, water, land, forests, wildlife and other natural resources. With the approval of this strategy, Pakistan becomes the 23rd country in the world with an explicit national policy document for a sustainable future.

The NCS would not have seen the light of day without the untiring efforts of Ahan Marker and her team at the IUCN.

It will be a great day when our schools get all the money they need and the air force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomb.

Women's Int. League for Peace & Freedom

E P A

Environmental Protection Agency Sindh — A Profile

Because of the growing worldwide environmental consciousness (several aid giving agencies began to include "green criteria" in its prequalification schedules) the Government of Pakistan saw it fit to pass legislation at the federal level making it possible for EPAs to be set up in each province.

SHEHRI, in its role as "public watch dog" presents an insight into the mandate and workings of the EPA Sindh.

In November 1987, an Environmental Protection Cell was established under the Industries and Mineral Development Department, Govt. of Sindh. Later, in 1989, the Sindh government formally transformed it into an Environmental Protection Agency, transferring it to the Minister of Housing, Town Planning and Environment (Mr. Ishratul Abad).

Presently operating from a small office in Clifton, Karachi under a Director General (Mr. Mehtab Rashidi), it is entrusted with a daunting agenda of work to be done and matters to be attended to.

These include:

- 1: Control of surface and ground water pollution in the entire province of Sindh.
- 2: Control of air pollution (vehicles and industrial emission).
- 3: Control of noise pollution.
- 4: Improvement in rural sanitation.
- 5: Solid Waste management.
- 6: Control of marine pollution (Industrial discharge

and oil discharge from sea vessels).

- 7: Fertilizers and pesticide pollution.
- 8: Monitoring of radiation levels.
- 9: Conservation of the natural resources of Sindh.

So on and so forth, in fact the above items constitute only half the matters of vital importance mentioned in its long priority list. One therefore fails to understand how, even with a very determined head of the department, this rather tiny body can meet the challenge unless it is enormously strengthened with A-grade technical expertise and effective linkage with numerous governmental and non-governmental departments and communities affected by pollution and causing pollution.

Firstly, this small organisation is faced with the challenge of collecting an enormous amount of data on environmental impact assessment in the entire province (land, water and air). In the case of Sindh (with coastal parts of Baluchistan) it poses a much larger area of investigation because of the sea factor, which the two other provinces, Punjab and NWFP do not have to deal with. Secondly, the city of Karachi, capital of Sindh, being very densely populated and highly industrialized requires a tremendous amount of base-line work, effective legal cover and complex networking with the private sector for any measure of preven-

Sindh has been plagued with severe environmental problems for years. In the rural areas over — use of agro-chemicals has been causing ground, water and land pollution. In the cities, waste-water discharges have caused severe water pollution over the years.

tion and control of environmental pollution.

Sindh has been plagued with severe environmental problems for years. In the rural areas, over use of agro chemicals for agriculture has been causing ground and surface water pollution and land degradation, more pronounced in some areas than others. In the cities, municipal and industrial waste-water discharges into the receiving water-bodies, Lyari and Mair Rivers in Karachi and Sindh and Phuleli Canal in Hyderabad, have caused severe water pollution over the years. New developmental projects in the region could exacerbate the problem further unless handled with environmental foresight.

The industrial waste-water discharge in Sindh is at present regulated by the Factories Act 1935. Obviously outdated, new legislation for environmental pollution control is urgently required. It is therefore heartening to note that the government of Sindh has approved the project of development of the Effluent Discharge Standards for Water, Air, Noise, Solid Waste, Fertilizers, Pesticides, Hazardous Waters, Radiation etc. along with the development of legislation for these standards for the prevention and control of pollution and conservation of natural resources in Sindh.

The two other EPA projects approved by the Sindh government are:

- a) Impact of fertilizers and pesticides.
- b) Industrial Emission Assessments in Kotri, Jamboro, and Hyderabad.
- c) Impact assessment of Lakhra coal mines in Dadu District.

Other proposed projects concerning sanitation projects for Karachi, waste-water treatment and disposal for Tanning Industries in Korangi, Karachi, and National and Jawedan Cement factories in Karachi are awaiting governmental approval.

EPA Sindh has established liaison with the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, and receives technical advice from its Environmental Engineering Division. However, considering the volume and diversity of areas falling under its

parameter, it could well do with more technical assistance with well-established environmental institutes in other Asian and developing countries.

During the past year, in addition to initiating the approved developmental projects, EPA Sindh has mainly concentrated on consciousness raising activities, holding seminars, celebrating Earth Day and World Environment Day in collaboration with other non-governmental organisations. In the coming years it plans to carry out more impact assessment studies both in agricultural and industrial sectors and provide concrete measures for rural sanitation in Sindh. Considering the vital significance of its work, SHEHRI strongly supports freeing the organisation from official red-tapism that is so well-known for causing delay in the implementation of all government projects, and timely assistance to its Director General for international networking for technical help and a wider intra-regional network for effective functioning.

Every EPA in the world is as strong as its lawyers are capable. The EPA Sindh has to date no lawyers on its staff although it has recently invited applications from law firms to be hired as consultants. SHEHRI strongly urges the EPA to develop its own legal panel from respected and reputable (retired?) judges and lawyers who could then give direction to their hired consultants.

CITIZENS POLICE LIAISON COMMITTEE

A COMMENDABLE EXPERIMENT IN COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT CO-OPERATION:

The genesis of CPLC in 1989 may well be termed an example of the old maxim about necessity leading to invention. 1989 had seen an unprecedented rise in crime in the city of Karachi. Innumerable cases of day-light robberies, vehicle-snatching at gun-point and kidnapping were striking terror everywhere. The total impotence of the police to tackle the problem (and in some cases its alleged connivance) was leading to bitter rage amongst the citizens. In sheer desperation, people were groping for ways and means to protect themselves. It was during this period that commercial agencies hiring out armed guards to private citizens became a lucrative business and the sad sight of barred gates blocking entrances in residential areas met

the eye everywhere.

It was against this backdrop that Justice Fakhruddin

G. Ibrahim, who was then the Governor of Sindh, presented the idea of a body where citizens could put their own ef-

forts, resources and drive to effective use and complement the police force in beating crime.

So great was the desperation amongst common citizens, that the idea immediately gained popularity. Young industrialists from SITE offered voluntary services to the Governor. It was then only a matter of time required for official procedure before the organisation was formally inaugurated by Mr. Fakhruddin G. Ibrahim on 15th March 1990, with its Central reporting cell situated in the Governor's house.

Citizens and Police Liaison Committee has been created through a notification by the Government of Sindh and therefore has complete legal cover. Twenty four prominent citizens (who had offered voluntary services)



In the picture are Corps Commander Aziz Durrani, Mr. Jameel Yusuf on the left, Nazim Iqbal who are the Joint Chief and Chief of CPLA respectively.

Continued on page 4

READERS' VIEWS

From M. Rahimuddin
Ex-Additional Director KDA

I received your publication (July 1991) for which I am grateful.

I want to make some observations on the article written by Qazi Isa. The factual position is that KDA has not been declared as the 'Authority' under S.4 of the Sindh Building Control Ordinance, 1979, but the Masterplan and Environmental Control Dept. (MP&EC) KDA as the Authority. The notification as issued by the Govt. of Sindh still stands. This was made due to the fact that MP&EC is the only planning Dept, therefore Building control was assigned to it. KDA's other departments have nothing to do with the affairs of the Karachi Building Authority (KBCA). The notifications were based on the recommendations of the last Karachi Development plan 1974-85 which should be with planning control (MP&EC). In the early days of the formation of the KCBA, this was strictly followed and the Karachi Town Planning & Building Regulations were prepared by the MP&EC which were approved by the Government. I was the author/draftsman for the preparation of the regulations and I also drafted SBCO 1979 and took active part in the establishment of the KCBA and its affairs. Therefore I know the whole background.

The other thing which I would like to point out is that the Karachi Building Regulation 1979 cannot be seen in isolation but should be read in close relationship with the Karachi Town Planning

regulations 1979 by our learned lawyers while pleading their cases in the court of law as it will then give the true picture of Planning & Building Control. Nowadays, the Authority has 'ASSUMED' powers which have not been bestowed upon it either by SBCO 1979 or by the Regulations e.g. regularization of unauthorised structures or construction in compulsory open spaces by levying some fine/charges. Nowhere in the SBCO 1979 or in the Regulations has construction in compulsory open spaces been allowed. Minor construction like 'chagga' etc. has only been allowed on technical grounds (see regulations 1979). In my humble opinion, such regularizations are an infringement on the basic rights of citizens and it is tantamount to "Qatal un nas jamia". This compulsory open space is very essential from the health and other points of view as every person has a right to fresh air, light etc. This has to be established by learned lawyers and injunctions from honourable courts have to be passed against the Authority on such 'assumed' powers as they are increasing day by day.

From: Imran H. Sheikh

Gulfway Towers, a multi-storied commercial building, is being constructed on main Clifton road near Teen Talwar on what is an amenity plot.

The residents of Block 8 Clifton have filed a Constitution Petition against the developers and have obtained an order that the same shall not be constructed contrary to the approved building plan.

It is noteworthy that the Karachi Building Control Authority as well as Clifton Cantonment Board have issued notice to the developers to stop construction as the same is contrary to their building plans.

The High Court has also granted the Petitioner's application to enable them to inspect the records of both Karachi Building Control Authority as well as Clifton Cantonment Board.

According to the Karachi Building Control Authority, Gulfway Towers should have had 1/3 mezzanine, two shopping floors above it, and 2 further parking floors above them.

The developers are trying to take advantage of the Clifton Cantonment Board sanctioned plan which permits only 5 storeys with no shopping floors and parking floors.

It is noteworthy that both the approved building plans of K.B.C.A and Clifton Cantonment Board require 1/3 mezzanine floors. It is obvious that the developers have constructed the building contrary to the abovementioned approved plans.

The developers have also violated compulsory open space around the building which they were required to leave around it.

The residents have filed a Constitution Petition not only because the developers have violated their privacy but also because the said building plans are contrary to the regulations which both the K.B.C.A and the Clifton Cantonment Board have to follow in granting approval of build-

ing plans.

In addition, the High Court has ordered that an independent Commissioner inspect Gulfway Towers to determine how far the developers have violated the building plans and has given him till the end of August 1992 to complete the same.

Adjacent to Gulfway Towers, Cliff Towers is being constructed by the same developers who are constructing ground plus 9 storeys and probably eventually ground plus 15 storeys, if one believes the advertisement.

Three plots down, still on main Clifton Road, Yusuf Grand Square has already exceeded ground plus 5 storeys and construction is in progress on higher floors.

The Block 8 Residents Association is also considering taking legal action against the so-called developers in respect of Cliff Towers and Yusuf Grand Square and to compel the Karachi Building Control Authority and the Clifton Cantonment Board to follow the Regulations in order to prevent the developers who have obtained permission to construct these highly undesirable high rise buildings on the main Clifton Road, which would not only adversely affect the privacy of the residents living behind these buildings, but also to prevent ruthless commercialism by crass developers supported by corrupt officials who are flouting the laws with impunity to convert what it considered one of the better residential areas of Karachi into a slum.

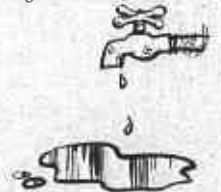
If the Clifton area, which includes GOR with many

senior bureaucrats of the Sindh Government, senior politicians and other wealthy and influential people, is not safe from such gross and obvious violations, what hope is there of any one listening to those unfortunates deprived of light and air, subjected to noise and other pollution, of shortage of water and the basic amenities in other areas of the city?

If the city administration is unable to deal with such simple and obvious violations perhaps they would do well to resign collectively so that at least the people know where they stand. This action at least should be within their capability.

CONSERVE WATER SO IT CAN BE SHARED BY ALL

The smallest drip from a leaking faucet can waste over 50 gallons a day.



In six months, a leaking toilet wastes over 45,000 gallons of water.



CPLC

Cont. from Page 3

were given membership through a similar notification. These members have the powers of a magistrate and can check the records of a police station. They are divided into four committees, each comprising six members and attached to Ferozabad, Clifton, Babadurabad and SITE police stations. The conveners of CPLC are vested with the status of "Justice of Peace". Mr. Nazim F. Haji and Mr. Jameel Yusuf are the chief and joint chief respectively and are vested with the powers of Special Magistrate for all the four districts of Karachi in particular, and the province of Sindh in general.

It is heartening to note that the experiment of the citizens' participation in combating crime (novel in our context) has been successful in many regards. Although the magnitude of crime in Sindh is large enough to neutralize many efforts, yet seen against the perspective of police performance in the past, CPLC's contribution has been found plausible. The role of this relatively small body in combating

crime had in fact become so significant during a very short period that neither the government under which it was instituted, nor the Care-taker government, nor the next government chose to dissolve it.

At present CPLC has four major areas of operation:

- 1: It assists in recovering victims of kidnapping, co-ordination with the A.I.T. (Army Investigation Team).
- 2: It helps in the recovery of snatched vehicles, seeking the cooperation of the magistrates for speedy return of the recovered vehicles to the legal owners.
- 3: It assists citizens in lodging F.I.R.s (First Information Report) where they face difficulty and in obtaining FRCs (Final Report Certificates) of their stolen vehicles. This process includes follow-up on investigation which is carried out daily by its staff.
- 4: It also provides recourse to victims of police excesses and torture and sometimes succeeds in bringing the offender to book.

With the help of modern techniques and equipment (all donated by private citizens) CPLC has mastered a good measure of efficient and accurate working. Its computers keep a daily record of snatched/stolen vehicles and their recovery in the entire province. With the help of a Computer identity kit, it produces sketches of criminals. Modern methods of evidence such as covert photography and voice match are also being incorporated as evidence in courts.

CPLC has been in the past making efforts to create public awareness through advertisement campaigns in the print media, but there is a lot of scope for spreading information about the existence and usefulness of this organisation. SHEHRI warmly appreciates the good work done by its volunteers and staff and hopes that networking will step by step expand to cover more affected areas.

JUSTICE FAKHRUDDIN G. IBRAHIM'S COMMENTS ON CPLC
The driving force behind the establishment of the CPLC was retired Justice Fakhruddin G. Ibrahim, the ex-Governor

of Sindh. Justice Ibrahim recently shared his views on CPLC with SHEHRI. He said that on becoming Governor of Sindh one of his first suggestions in order to meet the law and order situation was to set up this Committee. At the time dacoities, car thefts and kidnappings for ransom were occurring on a daily basis and spreading panic in Karachi. At the same time people were hesitant to go to the police. To rectify this situation the CPLC was set up in three 'thanas' so that the citizens and the police could work together to beat crime. The then Prime Minister Mr. Benazir Bhutto also supported the CPLC by agreeing to let it operate from the premises of the Governor's house. This was a great advantage to the Committee and it was able to function more effectively. Justice Ibrahim pointed out that the entire set up was funded through private contributions and no money was taken from the government.

Later on, during the famous Jam Sadiq/Irfanullah Marwat leadership in Sindh the CPLC, for obvious reasons, did not have the sup-

port of the government. Now however, it is functioning very well once again and should be expanded further.

Justice Ibrahim made special mention of Mr. Nazim Haji (Chief of CPLC) and Mr. Jameel Yusuf (Joint Chief of CPLC) without whom he says the CPLC would not be functioning today. He also said that Wing Cmdr. Fahim Beg and the COAS Corps Committee provided great support.

The reason why the CPLC is so successful is that both ordinary citizens and the police coordinate and cooperate with each other and the contributions of both teams are recognised. For example, the hard work put in by several members of the police force was acknowledged by the CPLC and the Committee listens to the grievances of the police as well as the public. Justice Ibrahim concluded by saying that the CPLC is an excellent and very useful organisation and will be able to do even more work in the future.

SHEHRI thanks Justice Ibrahim for sharing his views with us.

SHEHRI NEWS

EARTH FEST KARACHI "GREEN THEATRE" BY SHEHRI

In connection with the Earth fest held on June 27, 1992, at the British Council, SHEHRI and its Junior Citizens organised a 10 minute play entitled "Dadi Amma ki Haveli". The play was written for us by Mr. Anwar Maqsood who kindly agreed to write the script inspite of being given very short notice! Our director was Mr. Sajid Hasan and he was assisted by Kiran Ahmad and Deneize Asim.

The theme of the play was "architectural environment" and emphasized the need to preserve old buildings and our architectural heritage. The play revolves around an old lady 'Dadi Amma', her servant 'Shaikhu Baba' and her grandson 'Javed'. Dadi Amma

lives in a beautiful old house (a Haveli) but is unable to maintain it. However, 'Javed' loves the house and is determined to do something to preserve it. How they go about saving the house and whether they succeed is what the play is all about, the moral being that a little care and attention given to our old buildings and monuments goes a long way towards protecting the architectural environment, our culture and heritage.

Our Junior Citizens cast members were:

- 1) Minail Anis (Dadi Amma)
- 2) Uzair Mianoor (Shaikhu)
- 3) Ali Kabeeer Sayed (Javed)
- 4) Karen Panjwaneey (Tahira)
- 5) Kamran Anis (Ahmad)

PLASTIC BAGS COLLECTION COMPETITION AWARD CEREMONY



As all our readers are sure to remember, Shehri - CBE organised a Used Plastic Bags Collection Competition last year. Shehri decided that it was about time that the menace of plastic bags (which were multiplying at an alarming rate - exactly like our population!) was controlled. For this purpose, Shehri held this competition and asked young members of the Leo Club to participate in it. A huge amount of bags were collected of which 44 kilos alone were from the Mazar of the Quid!

The award ceremony was

held on January 29, 1992, and Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah kindly consented to give prizes to the participants who had collected the most bags.

After a brief presentation by Shehri, Ms. Anita Ghulam Ali (Managing Director, Sindh Teachers Foundation) spoke on the need for others to join this campaign. Representatives from IUCN also asked that the government take interest in controlling the plastic bag menace. This was followed by a speech by the Chief Guest and the presentation of awards to the winners of the competition.

JAPAN COUNCIL AGAINST ATOMIC AND HYDROGEN BOMBS

Shehri - CBE supports the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs' strug-

gle to prevent the SDF (Special Defence Force) and remilitarisation.

SEMINAR ON 'ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT'

In Pakistan, concern for the environment is finally getting the attention it deserves, and not a moment too soon. Independent Communications Network (ICN) in collaboration with Shehri and United States Information Service organised a seminar on 'Environment and Sustainable Development' on June 6, 1992.

Three short documentaries were screened highlighting environmental issues with special attention to Pakistan's environmental concerns.

The documentaries were:

- 1) Only One Earth: Our Common Future, an introductory film about global environmental problems
- 2) Greening our Future, focusing on Pakistan and outlining the implementation design for our National Conservation Strategy (NCS)
- 3) Before It's Too Late, an entertaining docu-drama dealing with environmental issues.



The screening of the films was followed by a panel discussion and a question and answer session. The two panelists were Ms. Dhunmai Cowasjee, JRC, IUCN, Pakistan, and Mr. Azhar Abbas, Reporter, The News. Priorities of the NCS for Pakistan were outlined by Ms. Cowasjee. She also pointed out that there are no standards of pollution in

Pakistan and stressed the need to set official standards. When questioned by Mr. Navaid Husain on accountability and the fact that most funds are misused, Ms. Cowasjee replied that there were, as such, no guarantees. This is why the NGOs need to play a greater role in handling environmental issues as opposed to the government.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The 1st Annual General Body Meeting of Shehri - CBE was held on May 9, 1992. It was attended by the Shehri Managing Committee and other Shehri members. The first item on the agenda was the confirmation of the minutes of the Statutory Meeting held in December, 1991. The Audited Statement of Accounts for the period ended December 31, 1991 was read out and M/s Haider Ali and Co. were appointed as Shehri's auditors for 1992. Two new members were proposed and co-opted into the Managing Committee. They are: Dr. Ajmal Khan and Mr. Khatib Ahmad. Other business discussed at the meeting included suggestions for making Shehri's work more effective by appealing to overseas Pakistanis for financial aid and enrolling new members in the organisation.

WHO'S WHO IN SHEHRI-CBE

The SHEHRI Managing Committee:

Chairperson:

Navaid Husain
Architect

Vice Chairperson:

Qazi Faez Isa
Barrister-at-Law

General Secretary:

Humaira Rahman
Architect

Treasurer:

Danish Azar Zubey
Interior Designer

Member:

Hassan Jaffery

Member:

Zain Shaikh
Lawyer

Member:

Fazal Nur
Architect

Member:

Khatib Ahmad
Businessman

Member:

Dr. M. Ajmal Khan
Phd. in Ecology

SHEHRI staff members are:

Arifa Kapadia

Co-ordinator

Arif Usman

Asst. Co-ordinator

Azra Amir

Asst. Publications

What is SHEHRI doing?

ONGOING AND FORTHCOMING PROJECTS:

- 1) Coastal Water Pollution involves sampling, analysis of coastal water and identification of major polluters.
- 2) Glossary on Urdu environmental terminology - a

translation of environmental, nuclear and architectural terms from English to Urdu.

- 3) Urban Crises Book - a compilation of papers written by various experts.
- 4) Urdu Newsletter - articles and comments are welcome.
- 5) Plastic Bags disposal and recycling.
- 6) Population clock (On TV) Shehri is seeking funding from corporate organizations to televise a digital population clock along with a high impact 15 second documentary to highlight the devastating effects of uncontrolled population growth. Donations are welcome.
- 7) Seminar on Solid Waste plus Sewage and Sewage Treatment in Karachi.
- 8) Period Architecture in Karachi - a report on the status of our architectural heritage followed by a seminar.
- 9) Fund Raiser - please give us your suggestions, if any.

Want to join a SHEHRI sub committee?

- 1) Architectural Heritage
- 2) Publications
- 3) Legal Redress
- 4) Coastal Water Pollution

Please write to us stating your interest (you have to be a card-holding member of Shehri to be on a sub-committee).

JOIN SHEHRI TO CREATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

If you wish to join Shehri please drop this card at:

Shehri, Citizens for a Better Environment

P.O. Box No. 8053, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi-75400

Tel: 442578, 441769 Fax: 438226

Name: _____ Tel: (Res) _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____ Tel: (Off) _____

NEW MEMBERS

Our new members for June 1992 were:

Mr. Pervaz A. Shaikh

Ms. Zarin M. Patel

Mr. Asif Q. Ali

Mr. Farhan Mahmood

Mr. Mohammad Qasim Pathan

Ms. Shazia Khawaja

Mr. Ashfaq Mashadi

Ms. Naeema Kapadia

AND SASSI WEPT...

By Ahsan Halim

"Grow more trees: A Sapling-a-Day Keeps Erosion Away"

If prizes were offered for slogan mongering, we in Pakistan would sweep them all. You find some lovely messages plastered on our walls.

Through these mighty slogans we have recaptured lost territories, prevented the desecration of holy places and made our provinces lush with green forests.

And a knife twist is the slogan: "Protect the trees".

Here, below, is the story of one forest, grown perhaps hundreds of year ago and kept alive through centuries of alien rule. It was hacked down by our own stalwarts recently.

The forest, garden or orchard, was called Wateji or Sassi Pannu ka Bagh. The story of the still living orchard was published in "Dawn" in 1974 and of its destruction in the "Star", almost exactly ten years later on Thursday 19th April 1984. The "Star" article was headed "And Sassi Wept". (But nobody heard Sassi or others who wept along with her).

The article is being republished here with acknowledgements to these papers in the national interest. And with the hope that it may penetrate the steel rampart of apathy that surrounds our rulers, and protects them from meddling people like us.

The orchard served a dual purpose. Ofcourse, the trees provided shade and fruit but equally importantly, they prevented soil erosion from the sea. They have all been cut down.

...AND SASSI WEPT.

Once upon a time, about 32 miles from Karachi, there lived an orchard of green trees. It had been there for a long time. Neglected, it had survived, for it was nurtured by love. It was dedicated to the memory of Sassi and Pannu, the most famous of the tragic lovers of Sindh.

The orchard had lived until the avalanche of greed finally engulfed us and began to erode our aesthetic sense. Apathy has enabled us to suffer this and many other similar losses with equanimity. We who, by religion profess to be against didactic materialism, appear to be helpless against diabolic materialism.

It was about 22 years ago that I first came across this haven of peace and the shrine of love. A chance remark by someone at a tea shop at the Gagger railway crossing had intrigued me. An old man had mentioned "Sassi Pannu Ka Bagh".

The name would arouse the curiosity of anyone with imagination and a smattering of history. I decided to investigate. Jeeps were few those days and we thought it best not to risk the car across the



This is just a partial view of one of the banyan trees at Wateji. There were several like this. Now even the stumps are gone. The orchard was cut down upon instructions of the Union Government, Thail. To me this stumps looks like the headstones of a tomb. Climbing it is heritage.

rough terrain that lay before us. We walked three miles across rough country and thorny bushes to land at a place that left a lasting impression. A green belt seemed to sprout out of the sand almost on the shores of the Arabian sea.

There were tall and stately 'pipal' and some gnarled banyan trees. At least two of the latter were massive and seemed to cover acres of land. Even a layman could guess that these two could be hundreds, even thousands of years old. Branches hanging down had taken firm root and become massive trees themselves. Many of them had curious shapes. Fascinating, demanding further investigation and a closer acquaintance. A hurried round of the place revealed 'jamun' trees, tamarind ('imli') and wood apple ('kath').

I began to visit the place frequently, sometimes alone, at times with my friends and later with my family. Gradually we had explored a large part of the orchard and had come to know some of the local people.

The young called this place Wateji forest but the old knew it only as 'Sassi Pannu ka Bagh'. They had heard this name from their parents and they in turn from theirs.

This was obviously not a forest-even one planted by human hands. It was a fruit orchard, a retreat, built by loving hands and maintained with care. Early on I had discovered three water wells, one at the outskirts, others a short distance inside. Two were partially filled with sand but the third still showed water at a depth. I was told that there were several more wells deep inside. I was never able to reach there because the orchard was the abode of hundreds of vultures and their droppings lay several inches thick on ground. The air was foul. It needed a

strong stomach to go even a hundred yards in any direction before one had to surface for air.

I discovered some 'kumrakh' and mango trees, confirming my early surmise about it being an orchard. The locals had told me that there was a cottage a short way in and a temple also. The cottage was easy to find. It still had a roof and was well built. The temple was found on subsequent visits. Unfortunately it was always dark inside and I was never able to take a photograph.

Once I took a friend to this temple and we discovered, under loose earth, what appeared to be a Shri lingam. Both of us agreed then that this could indeed be a temple. On another occasion I met an old man and had a long chat with him. We Sindhis are fond of exchanging news and views and that is how much of our history and all the folklore lies buried in the hearts of the people. It does not need much excavation to bring it to the surface.

The old man was willing, indeed eager, to talk.

"This is not a forest, my friend. This is the place where Sassi and Pannu met in secret. Then they got married. Later Pannu, who was prince of Mekran, was whisked away by his brothers and Sassi followed him across the blazing desert and the burning hills of Baluchistan.

You can still see the place where she rested and where she prayed for water and Allah produced a stream for her. It's at a place called Chhota Sanger. You must go and see it and you must see her grave. And Pannu's too, for they are buried together.

This is not a forest. Even in those days it was an orchard. I've heard that it

belonged to a Hindu of Debal, a rich man. Then several hundred years later another Hindu seth acquired the land and enlarged the orchard. His descendants were still here when Pakistan came into being. Then they migrated to India. For a few years afterwards the government took care of the orchard and then gave up. I don't know why. Some trees died but others survived. We who live close by looked after the trees that were of use to us. We, poor as we are, could not look after the whole orchard. We wanted to, but we don't have enough money for our own needs, leave alone the orchard's."

"How do you know all this?"

"How? Why my father told me. He had heard it from his father and he from his. Those men were not liars."

Although I believed him, I cannot vouch for any part of the story. It could be true. Bhanbor, that was Debal, is only a few miles cross country from this place. And Debal was where, according to the story, Sassi lived.

Some time back when I wanted to visit the place I could not find the old familiar track leading out from the National Highway, a few miles beyond the Gagger railway crossing. Enquiries were made of passersby.

"Don't go there," we were told. "There is nothing to see. It's all gone. And there are many wild boars and other wild animals in the forest. It may be dangerous." And sadly, "Why go at all? There is nothing there now. It's all gone."

Indeed it was difficult to get there. And I wish we hadn't gone. It was a heart-breaking sight. Intolerably depressing.

It looked as if Kipling's Mowgli had let in the jungle,

destroyed a legend, uprooted a romance.

After covering a very rough and dusty track and after losing our way in several ravines, we reached the outskirts of what appeared to be an impenetrable thorny patch. After some searching, we found an opening and had to meander for a half mile or so through a canopy of thorny bushes before we reached some sort of a clearing. We found a tent with two persons inside.

"Is this Sassi Pannu ka Bagh?"

"Yes".

"But where are the trees?"

"They've been cut down".

"By whom?"

"Contractors".

"Why?"

No answer.

I couldn't believe my eyes. And I couldn't trust myself to speak. I wandered off into this tangle of thorny bushes. Gradually I began to spot roots and tree trunks. And then I saw the cottage or what remained of it. Taking direction from it, I could guess where the trees may have stood.

Some stumps and trunks still remained. I thought of them as headstones marking the resting places of old and dear friends. The vultures too had gone. I mean the winged ones. There were no trees left for them.

I didn't stay there too long. One doesn't tarry in a graveyard. A desecrated graveyard is even less inviting.

Some years later I took a friend mine to see the Sonda cemetery, about 90 miles from Karachi on the National Highway. Once it had exquisitely carved tombstones. Some of them were better than those at Chaukhundi. Now? I found the place totally vandalised. The cupolas had disappeared; perhaps due to rain and neglect. But the tombs? And the finely carved headpieces? But that is another story.

On the return journey my friend had wanted to visit "Sassi Pannu ka Bagh" of which I had spoken so much and written so much. We found a camp at the edge of the orchard. Some people were cutting down a tree. Their attitude towards us was unfriendly, even menacing. They were questioned tactfully and it took a long time to elicit a reply. They had taken a contract to cut down some old trees.

The next morning I visited my friend, guide and mentor, the late Pir Hussamuddin Rashdi and informed him of what I had seen, mainly at Sonda. He showed me the cigarette he was smoking.

"You know, I have started smoking again after 24 years. It's due to frustration at my helplessness in trying to prevent all that is happening around us and to our cultural heritage. You and I cannot do anything to stop it."

He is dead. And at peace.

NEWS CLIPS

WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY



"CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT - IT MEANS THE WORLD TO US"

ICI Pak. Ltd. is turning 'environment friendly'. Within the Company, as part of the Safety, Health & Environment (SHE) agenda, conscious efforts are directed to conserve resources and minimize waste. Intra-Company reusable envelopes, copying on both sides of the paper, turning off lights during non-occupancy of offices are 'de rigueur'.

Such practices of recycling and waste management not only pay dividends in terms of

environmental gains but also have a salutary effect on the bottom line e.g. the initiative of introducing the reusable envelopes should result in savings of nearly 1.5 lacs over the life span of their use. Similarly trimmings from paper used for printing are remodelled into inter-office memos. Newspapers, once read, are sold in bulk through intermediaries for paper industry recycling for the manufacture of newsprint and issues.

The aim of the World Conservation is to help advance the achievement of sustainable development through the conservation of living resources. The Strategy:

- 1) explains the contribution of living resource conservation to human survival and to sustainable development;
- 2) identifies the priority conservation issues and the main requirements for dealing with them;
- 3) proposes effective ways

for achieving the strategy's aim.

The Strategy is intended to stimulate a more focussed approach to living resource conservation and to provide policy guidance on how this can be carried out. It concentrates on the main problems directly affecting the achievement of conservation's objectives, and how to deal with them through conservation. In particular, the Strategy identifies the action needed both to improve conservation efficiency and to integrate con-

servation and development.

The aim of the Strategy is to achieve the three main objectives of living resource conservation:

- a. to maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems
- b. to preserve genetic diversity (the range of genetic material found in the world's organisms)
- c. to ensure the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems

MOTHER NATURE - THE PERFECT HOUSEKEEPER

Is Mother Nature the perfect housekeeper? One of the most controversial theories in modern science gained some credibility recently with new evidence that sea life may help regulate the Earth's temperature. For two decades, that has been a key tenet of the "Gaia" hypothesis proposed by the Climatologist James Lovelock and US Biologist Lynn Margulis, which contends that life forms collectively constitute a self regulating "super-organism"

According of the theory, named after the Greek Earth goddess, colonies of ocean plankton are part of the "feedback" process that controls both the air temperature and their population. Plankton excrete a gas with sulfur compounds that create "cloud condensation nuclei", the seeds of clouds. When the temperature rises, plankton growth increases, and more gas is emitted into the atmosphere. Sulfates from that gas help form more clouds that block

sunlight, reducing the temperature and thus maintaining an equilibrium.

In the current issue of the journal "Nature", three Australian scientists report that 20 months of readings at Cape Grim in the South Pacific confirm a connection between plankton gas emissions and cloud seeding sulfur compounds. Other correlations remain unproved, but the results lend weight to the idea that Gaia knows best.

Courtesy 'Dawn'.

30 BANKS PACT ON ENVIRONMENT

UNITED NATIONS, May 7: Thirty commercial banks from 23 countries with combined assets of \$1.5 trillion have pledged to consider environmental risks when making loans.

M.K. Tolba, executive director of the UN environment programme, said it was the first time banks have agreed to "collective opera-

tional principles" on the environment.

No US bank was included in the list of signatories to a statement of principles. But Tolba said Citicorp's Citibank had shown an interest in joining the group, which included leading banks in Germany, Switzerland, Britain, Canada and Hong Kong, among many others.

The banks, which together employ more than 1.5 million people, said in a statement they expected customers to comply with local, national and international environmental regulations and would attempt to integrate environmental risks into their "normal checklist of assessment management".

Courtesy "DAWN"

ZIA'S BROTHER GIVEN PLOT MEANT FOR PARK?

Mr. Izhah-ul-Haq, brother of the late President Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, was allotted a residential plot in Sector F-7 of the federal capital from a space demarcated in the master plan for a public park.

This came to light during question hour in the Senate on Tuesday. Chaudry Amir Hussain, Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, admitted, in a reply to a question, that a residential plot had been allotted to Mr. Izhah-ul-Haq in lieu of plot in Sector F-7/2 of the federal capital. The plot had been allotted to Mr. Izhah-ul-Haq in 1982.

However the Minister refuted an accusation that the

plot allotted to Mr. Izhah-ul-Haq was meant for a public park. He, however, conceded that the plot was created out of an open space in Sector F-7/1.

Brigadier (retd.) Hayyat, who lives in Sector F-7/1, stood up on a point of order and claimed that the plot allotted to the brother of President Zia had been part of a Public park in the Sector. He further said that a plot of 1600 square yards had been allotted Mr. Izhah-ul-Haq against a plot of 1050 sq. yards. The minister did not respond to the allegation made by Senator Hayyat.

Courtesy: "DAWN"

PAKISTAN NGOs POSITION IN THE SOUTHERN RESPONSE TO GEF

An NGO Response to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was held on April 26-27, 1992 at Islamabad. SHEHRI was represented by a member of its Managing Committee, who was one among 14 representatives of national NGOs of the country. The final report was a 13-page document.

The consultants and the consensus arrived at on certain issues discussed forms part of the Report which is but one of a series of such reports of the national NGOs in the region or in the South, which, when taken and read together, would constitute the basis for the formulation of a final, consensus-based Southern Response to the concept and structure of GEF.

The GEF is a \$1.4 billion (1990-92), 54 government/states fund (of which Pakistan is also a member).

The discussion centered around the issues raised by the four major focus areas of GEF concern i.e. Bio-diversity, Ozone, GHGs and International Waters, in which bio-diversity was sub-linked with River Pollution, Deforestation and Soil. The report states that the only area of commonality found "after stretch-

ing national concerns", was in the area of Biodiversity. The Report says that since the GEF initiative of a small group of Northern Countries was outside the N-covenants and sanctions, it was, therefore, arbitrary and undemocratic, at the most fundamental conceptual level. Consequently, the structure of GEF was accordingly undemocratic, in as much as the WB is neither a democratic institution nor transparent and accountable to the South. Identifying the "purveyors" of the destructive and hazardous effects on the local and global environment to be the North, the Report bemoans the "blaming the victim" approach of the North. In a Statement of Concern the Report states: "...the group rejected the very fundamentals which were behind the founding conceptualization and formation of the GEF." Claiming concern for the global ecological and environmental crisis the Report emphasizes that "...it is precisely because of the seriousness and gravity of these concerns that we cannot let the discussion be dominated or determined by an arbitrary, non-transparent and non-democratic structure

like GEF which has no UN sanctions and is not bound to international covenants and participatory procedural norms".

Arguing on the basis of sovereignty and the broadening of "the decision-making constituencies which affect the lives of all people", the Group proposed an alternative UN based structure on the basis of each participating state having a right to vote and therefore, being responsible and accountable to the world.

The proposed alternative structure by the Group ensured maximum level of participation representing all levels of society while providing at the same time, for checks and balances.

Finally, the Report recommends a funding mechanism for such a UN oriented structure and suggests that the same may be generated; inter alia, by

- fixed percentage of GNP and/or GDP be charged from each nation; and
- an ecological tax be established for each nation.

- HASSAN JAFFERY
Member, SHEHRI
Managing Committee.

The cost of war



Disarmament could bring tremendous benefits if the money was spent on relief and development.

Graph by Gemini's Courtesy D+C No 4/1991.

SCENES FROM URBAN LIFE IN KARACHI



Civilization depends on considerate behaviour between classes, between genders, between the rulers and the ruled.

However, when the pursuit of private profit gains complete precedence over public benefit in any society, civilization itself is threatened.

Some scenes from urban life in the 'posh' areas of our city.

When car showroom owners can treat public pavements as private property to display and park cars under the noses of municipal councillors, police inspectors and district magistrates, surely civilization is at risk. Pedestrians are forced to tread dangerous paths to conduct daily chores.

With parking spots in scarce supply and a Karachi



Building Control Authority (formerly under KDA now under KMC) bye law making it mandatory for all multi storeyed building developers to cater for parking within the building premises in existence, how do building owners somehow manage to get away with this?

Not a single building on Tariq Road is using its basement to provide car parking. All of them show it on their submission plans to the authorities to receive approval for proceeding with construction. None of them to date have actually used it for this public convenience. Instead, this space is converted into shops and therefore more profit. As the photo shows even semi-government corporations are party to such deals.

Retailers and shopkeepers habitually and self-righteously extend their commercial precincts into arcades meant for shoppers. Why? With whose connivance? Under which law? By whose authority?

The cities and villages of Sindh and Pakistan are ruled ruthlessly by a small group of power wielding elite who don't care and who don't want to share.

Photographs:

1. Utility Stores (a semi-govt. organisation) in the basement of a building that should rightly be used for parking.
2. Car Showrooms all over the city are using public pavements and even roads to display their vehicles.
3. Dolmen Heights is supposed to be ground + five storeys as shown in the hoarding. A typical story of corruption, environmental degradation and crass commercialisation.

4. Tariq Road.



OUR WATER

Of all environmental ills, contaminated water is the most devastating in consequences. Each year 10 million deaths in the world are directly attributable to water borne intestinal diseases. One third of humanity labours in a perpetual state of illness or debility as a result of impure water, another third is threatened by the release into water of chemical substances whose long term effects are unknown.

— Philip Quigg, Water: The Essential Resource



COMMENTS ON THE NCS FOR PAKISTAN

Shehri Managing Committee member Hassan Jaffery shares his views with us on the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) for Pakistan.

"For Pakistan, the National Conservation Strategy fulfills the entire need for a policy framework. It caters to not only our unique environmental issues and concerns, and the ways and means to develop credible action plans, but also to try to harmoniously integrate them with the needs of an interdependable world.

Socio-economic and political considerations might engender limitations - as we have seen in the case of UNCED (United Nations Conference on the Environ-

ment and Development, June 3-14, 1992), where there were speculations on the final outcome of the Summit e.g. the decision of the United States of America not to sign the resolution on bio-diversity. However, hope remains a tangible dream.

That the NCS document will be a viable component of that dream requires not only our concerted efforts to be heard and accepted, but also the formal acknowledgement that one day soon, our endeavours will find the necessary dynamics to ensure that human life, the environment which sustains it, and the perpetuity of all species, both human and natural, is well worth preserving."

CONSERVATION GOALS FOR PAKISTAN TO THE YEAR 2000

1. Increase industrial and agricultural production on a sustainable basis, for our export needs and to meet the needs of a growing population.

2. Conserve and develop renewable resources - water, land, forests, fisheries, rangeland, mountain areas and wildlife - in ways which will lead to sustainability.

3. Recycle or treat all wastes including sewage and toxic wastes.

4. Improve efficiency in energy use and increase renewable, alternative and small-scale forms of energy.

5. Reduce the rate of population growth to about 2% per year.

6. Promote human resource development with the objective of universal education and training.

7. Increase the awareness of conservation and development issues among the general public using both education and the media.

8. Promote greater participation in sustainable development by local communities and NGOs and develop a two-way flow of communication between government and local institutions.

9. Strengthen the research and data base for conservation and development initiatives.

10. Develop biological alternatives where Pakistan has the advantage of abundant heat units and hours of sunshine instead of banking on capital and energy intensive solutions developed for the Western countries.

11. Introduce effective and operational legislation to control pollution and toxic substances and for resource protection and management.

12. Make the economic, planning and development agencies directly responsible for the quality of the environment and the sustainability of natural resources.

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