



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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The World Conservation Union

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## 'DIRTY BUSINESS'

By Dr. Iqbal Ali



The varied composition of solid waste'

**K**arachi, the largest metropolis in Pakistan, is facing many problems regarding solid waste removal and its disposal, resulting in widespread pollution and contamination of the environment. This is largely due to poor management and lack of will to organize and make the best use of the limited resources available to the concerned agencies. The type of solid waste generated in the city includes domestic refuse, commercial and institutional waste, street sweepings, construction material, industrial waste and hospital waste.

Karachi has a population of over 10 million growing at the rate of 6 per cent and is ranked as the world's 22nd largest metropolis in terms of population. About 40 per cent of the population lives in 432 'katchi abadis', the unplanned squatter settlements which lack basic infrastructural facilities, including those of solid waste removal and disposal. Karachi generates 5,000 - 5,500 tons of garbage per day, out of which 80 per cent comes under the management of the KMC (Karachi Metropolitan Corporation), while 20 per cent is managed by Cantonment Boards, KPT (Karachi Port Trust), KDA (Karachi Development Authority), DHA (Defence Housing Authority) etc. KMC spends about Rs. 390 million per year on waste disposal and can meet only 40 per cent of its waste removal and disposal target. There is a shortfall of Rs. 200 million which is met by procuring interest bearing loans from international lending agencies, adding to the budgetary burden. Therefore, the only fore-

**KMC spends about Rs 390 million per year on waste disposal and can meet only 40 per cent of its waste removal and disposal target.**

seeable way out of this situation is to promote waste recycling and re-use.

The approximate composition of recyclable materials in garbage generated depends on the socio-economic conditions, and therefore varies from area to area. However, on an average, recyclable solids amount to 89 per cent of the total waste out of which about 54.5 per cent is vegetable matter and 34.5 per cent non-vegetable matter.

Solid waste management with the element of recycling can convert our financial burden into a lucrative, commercially viable business. At present, the non-formal sector is doing this job in Karachi. Scavengers, who are often seen in and around the city's many garbage dumps, collect recyclable material and earn on an average of Rs. 10 to Rs. 70 per day. This material is sent to the recycling industry for metals, plastic, glass, paper, bones etc. The labour force employed in this industry makes about Rs. 2,000 - Rs. 3,000 per month.

Before the subject of recycling is discussed further, let us take a look at the prevailing scenario of solid waste collec-

tion, transport and disposal in Karachi. As mentioned above, the KMC is restricted due to paucity of funds and lifts only 40 per cent of the garbage in the areas under its control. To this is added a lack of civic sense, poor maintenance, inappropriate designing and irregular collection - as a result, one can find garbage lying everywhere. Under the KMC, there are 1,209 dustbins built of concrete masonry or galvanized iron sheets and about 1,360 open dumping sites (created by the local residents) without any structure.

The major problem with the dustbins or dumping sites is that users throw their refuse outside the bins resulting in unsightly garbage lying everywhere.

The second major difficulty is that on the layout plan of the city, provision of space for dustbins has been ignored with the result that now it is impossible to find a place to build a dump.

The present level of waste management services is grossly inadequate. About 6,000 tons per day of garbage has to be collected from domestic and commercial sources. However, the resources available for the collection and disposal of this garbage available to the KMC and other agencies have a capacity of only 2,280 tons per day.

The process of recycling that is going on quietly through the informal sector is a great blessing for the people of Karachi in general and the KMC in particular. They take care of about 54 per cent of the total garbage produced by Karachi at no cost to the KMC, while its own handling capacity is 40 per cent of the total at an annual cost of Rs. 388 million. In this way, work is provided for about 250,000 scavengers and at least 50 per cent more find employment in mini and cottage level recycling industries, thereby conserving valuable resources like forests, energy, fuel etc. The following recycling industries are at work: i) bones ii) glass iii) plastics iv) metals v) paper vi) textiles vii) rubber (tyres and tubes) viii) waste oil and waste grease and finally, ix) woods.

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## CITY MAYOR REMOVED FROM OFFICE YET AGAIN

Arif Hasan, a leading urban planner, comments on the recent removal of the Mayor of Karachi from office:

"Whenever a local body or political office is superseded, it damages the whole process of representative government and also removes the participation aspect of the people at large in the affairs of the city - this in itself is a damaging process. Even if a local body is inefficient or incompetent, there is a possibility that it will reform or improve itself over time with the help of the people and through elections. But if it is removed, the whole process has to be started all over again.

In Pakistan, the state of our local bodies is the same as that of the assemblies - we have seen this in the past as well as in the present."

Arif Hasan is the Chairman of Urban Resource Centre, Acting Director Orangi Pilot Project and a member of the Steering Committee, Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

## THE DIASPORA OF URBAN MANAGEMENT IN KARACHI

By Kaiser Bengali

**I**n the past few decades, Karachi's population has grown very rapidly. If current trends continue, the city will have to accommodate 12 to 15 million people by the year 2000, thus making it one of the ten largest cities in the world.

This enormous expansion of population has placed very heavy demands on urban services and infrastructure. It has necessitated major innovative responses in terms of changes in the institutional structure of municipal government, in development of mechanisms for the mobilization of resources, and in technology choices for delivery of services. Such responses have not been forthcoming. Political parties at the national, provincial and local levels have miserably failed to provide the vision or the leadership required of them in this respect.

Today the city stands at a turning point. The lower-income groups have remained largely excluded from the process of urban development. 'Katchi abadis' (squatter settlements) now account for almost 37 per cent of the population and are growing at a rate twice as fast as the city. Dissatisfaction with the quality of life and with the level of economic opportunities has reached boiling point.

**The KDA is the city's primary builder of infrastructure; its principal activity is the development of residential plots on publicly owned land in the city's periphery. It also builds apartments, roads, and flood control works, and constructs some water supply projects, as executing agent for the KWSB. In addition, it undertakes city master planning (the preparation of urban and regional plans for Karachi), building control and traffic engineering functions.**

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## 'DIRTY BUSINESS' (Contd. from Pg-1)

The most unfortunate aspect of this great contribution being made by the scavengers is the detrimental effect it has on their health. About 100 per cent suffer from skin diseases, a further 60 per cent from diseases of the lungs and a very large number from infections of all kinds. It is very necessary that these people be educated about the dangers they are exposing themselves to. The community as a whole should appreciate the role of the personnel involved in the process of recycling; but for them we would be knee-deep in our own garbage.

The only way to manage the unmanageable solid waste of Karachi is to encourage recycling by the informal and private sectors through education and organization on scientific lines to increase their efficiency. The KMC should compliment the work of the pickers so as to make a complete package which includes removal, transportation and disposal of recyclable and non recyclable solid waste. By doing so it would become the first metropolitan corporation in the country to make a sizable contribution in resource recovery and in saving energy, providing employment for many, and reducing the burden on our eco-system.

### Hospital Waste Management

A very important area of waste management which is totally neglected is the management of clinical waste. This should not be left to the scavengers but should be taken care of by the authorities. This includes the waste generated by hospitals, clinics, surgeries, general practitioners and dental clinics, and it can be very hazardous. In the developed coun-



Scavengers do not realize the dangers they are exposing themselves to when sorting through hospital waste

**"I have seen children playing with clinical wastes as if they were toys." The Health Department has never cared to order the hospitals to segregate the clinical waste from the general waste and adopt safe methods for their disposal.**

tries, where AIDS has been recognized as a fatal disease, hospital waste is well taken care of since its mishandling may cause the spread of this deadly disease. In Karachi it may not be AIDS as yet, but there are still scores of infectious diseases whose germs are carried by this waste. It consists of:

- i) Soiled surgical dressings, swabs, and waste from treatment areas.
- ii) Materials other than linen from cases of infectious diseases.
- iii) All human tissues and tissues from laboratories and related swabs and dressings.
- iv) Discarded syringes, needles, cartridges and broken glasses.
- v) Laboratory and post mortem room wastes.
- vi) Certain pharmaceutical and chemical wastes.
- vii) Used disposable bed pan liners, urine containers, incontinence pads and stoma bags.

The above waste excludes the garbage of a general nature like linen, kitchen waste, office waste etc. which do not create a health hazard.

The probability of clinical waste being responsible for disease and ill health is quite high owing to careless and unscientific disposal practices in Karachi and all over Pakistan. The clinical waste from Karachi hospitals is dumped along with other garbage and finds its way into the general refuse system. Child scavengers are found picking up disposable syringes, bandages, bottles etc. without anyone realizing the infectious nature of the recyclable material. The Health Department has never cared to order the hospitals to segregate the clinical waste from the general waste and adopt safe methods for their disposal.

Unfortunately, no studies have been done for Karachi in this connection. In 1980, in England, private and state hospitals generated 155,000 tons of hospital waste out of which 33,000 tons was of a hazardous nature. There are special laws in the West regarding collection and disposal of clinical

waste and failure to comply with them and uphold these laws is a punishable crime. It is therefore essential that hospitals etc. should take care to segregate the clinical waste by setting up separate dumps for it. Similarly, the civic authorities should make separate arrangements for the transportation and disposal of the clinical waste.

There are two ways to dispose of the clinical waste:

i) incineration, and ii) sanitary landfills. Incineration, as practised in some hospitals, which is simple open air burning is disastrous in itself and likely to create hazardous air pollution in the adjoining areas. Incineration has to be carried out in proper and scientifically designed incinerators. This is the only way to dispose of at least some of the clinical waste, if not all, for fear of the rising cost of incineration. The items that should be incinerated include human tissues, limbs, placentae, infected carcasses and dialysis waste, small amounts of solid medicines and injectables.

The remaining hospital waste including less toxic clinical waste can be disposed of the cheaper way i.e. sanitary landfills. It is high time that necessary regulations for clinical waste management were framed. At least scavengers, 'kabaris' and main dealers should be stopped from storing these items in their junk yards for purposes of recycling. I have seen children playing with clinical wastes as if they were toys. The scavengers do not know the hazards they are exposing themselves to and must be educated about them.

(Dr. Iqbal Ali is a regular contributor to the SHEHRI newsletter. He is Director of the Institute of Environmental Engg. & Research, NED University.)

## Dioxins in the Environment

By Dr. M. Rehan Tayab,  
Institute of Environmental Engg. & Research, NED University, Karachi.

Dioxins are a family of more than 100 different chlorinated hydrocarbon compounds formed as unwanted by-products in chemical reactions involving chlorine and hydrocarbons. One of the most toxic dioxins is TCDD which causes liver cancer, birth defects and death at very low concentrations; the approximate lethal dose of TCDD for humans is 1/500th of a drop.

Dioxins are unwanted by-products in the manufacture of chlorinated compounds such as certain wood preservatives and herbicides. TCDD and several other dioxins are always formed in trace amounts when chlorinated organic compounds are burned in municipal and hazardous waste sites and other combustion processes.



Scientists generally consider tainted foods such as fish, mother's milk, milk from cows eating grass from contaminated soil, and crops grown in the ground as the main source of exposure to dioxins for the general population. Another source is bleached paper and paper products. The limited

information available suggests that high and unacceptable levels of dioxins may be bleached into goods and beverages from chlorine-bleached paper used in milk cartons, paper towels, paper plates, sanitary napkins, disposable baby diapers and other paper products. Contamination from each source may

be at a safe level but cumulative exposure from multiple sources can exceed safe levels.

To reduce these hazards to safeguard public health and to improve the environmental quality in general, the concerned authorities should take serious action which includes:

Banning the use of chlorine for bleaching wood pulp and substituting oxygen for the bleaching process.

Increasing recycling of paper.

Increasing use of unbleached (slightly brown) food containers, paper plates, tissue papers etc.

Educating people to understand that demanding white paper products is unnecessary and potentially hazardous to their health and the environment.

Banning incineration of chlorinated plastic and chlorinated wastes.

"We must stop mortgaging the future to the present, we must stop destroying the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the forests that inspire...we need to prevent pollution at the source, not try to clean it up later. It's time to remember that conservation is the cheapest. We need to transform our society into one in which people live in true harmony - harmony among nations, and harmony with nature. We will either reduce, reuse, recycle and restore - or we will perish." - Rev. Jesse Jackson.

"Future generations must be inheritors, not just survivors." - Dr. George Schaller, Director for Science of Wildlife Conservation International.

## Workshop on Building Energy Management



Navaid Husain, Chairman Shehri, Addressing the participants of the Workshop on Building Energy Management.

**O**n 28-30 July, 1992, Dawood College, Aga Khan Programme, SHEHRI and ENERCON (National Energy Conservation Centre) arranged a Workshop for graduates of architecture and relative engineering disciplines. The main object of this workshop was to create awareness about energy conservation for which participants were chosen from various universities and organizations.

In the opening ceremony, the Dean, Faculty of Architecture, thanked all the organizers of the workshop and the Vice Principal also welcomed such a healthy activity in the college premises.

During the course of the workshop, lectures were deliv-

ered by various experts, slides were shown and a case study was held in the State Life Building on the following topics:

- Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning
- Lighting
- Building Envelope

The theme was that of adopting measures to make a building comfortable inside by controlling temperature with the minimum use of energy, and what advantages can be taken from the natural environment.

In the closing ceremony, all the speakers agreed that the workshop had been a useful and successful one and they hoped that more such events will take place in the future.

## SHEHRI Participates in Radio Talk Shows

**L**ast month, SHEHRI participated in a Radio talk show held at Radio Pakistan. The subject of the discussion was traffic congestion, the pollution it causes and other environmental hazards. Three members of SHEHRI took part in the show. They are:

- 1) Hasan Akhtar
- 2) Kuran Ahmad
- 3) Syed Ashfaq Mashadi

Mr. Akhtar, an environmental engineer, was the first to speak and explained the problems caused by traffic particularly in the fields of air and noise pollution. Kuran Ahmad,

a student of the National College of Arts, gave a brief introduction of SHEHRI followed by her views on the effects of pollution on our health, children, natural environment etc. She explained how faulty tuning and improper fuel combustion resulted in poisonous gases being released into the atmosphere which affect the ozone layer. Mr. Mashadi elaborated the effects of ozone depletion and the 'Greenhouse' effect which in turn cause global warming, melting of polar ice caps and flooding of low-lying coastal areas.

### FATE

If I were a petal of a rose or a leaf of a tree,  
If I were a seed of a sycamore or a spore of a weed,  
Flying, aimlessly on the wind,  
Moving without effort on the breeze,  
What use am I?  
I wonder, I wonder,  
Where should I go?  
What fate have I to meet?  
But my fate, I know well,  
The petal and the leaf, their fate,  
To dry and shrivel and wither away,  
The spore and the seed,  
To land in the depths of a pool,  
Or by the banks of a stream,  
To be nurtured and raised,  
By the earth, sun and rain,  
To be pulled by the roots,  
And chopped down at the stem,  
To share the same fate,  
That every living thing shares,  
Some time, some how, eventually

by Michelle Pappanery who is a former Citizen member of SHEHRI.

## Notice served to Quetta Municipal Corporation

**S**HEHRI, along with several other respectable and concerned citizens and associations of individuals, served a notice to the Quetta Municipal Corporation (QMC) on August 6, 1992.

The reason for this is that it appears that the QMC intends to construct garages along the area known as Habib 'Nallah' and has already begun construction in a clandestine manner and without inviting any public objections.

The Quetta Building Code has made provisions restricting building height (only 2 storeys), providing open areas etc. since

Quetta is an area of extremely high seismic activity. However, the QMC is in the forefront of not only violating the Building Code but is also setting dangerous precedents: the multi-storey 'Baldia Complex' was constructed in gross and utter violation of the Building Code. With the chance of another earthquake occurring, one wonders who has given the QMC the right to play with the lives of the citizens.

Today, Quetta City has no good roads, hardly any parks, no proper garbage collection, sanitation and sewage disposal, inadequate pedestrian paths, no tree plantations and no care

provided to existing trees; the list is endless. In the Quetta Master Plan, it is mentioned at various points that "Quetta desperately lacks recreational open spaces", which "must be protected and developed/enhanced".

The above lines are explanation enough as to why a legal notice has been served to the QMC which is not only depriving the citizens of their basic rights, but is also carrying out illegal constructions and in the long run, playing with the lives of the citizens. Do they really need a local body that is doing so much for them?

## Course on 'Low Cost Mohalla-Based Solid Waste Management'



Course on Low Cost Mohalla-Based Solid Waste Management.

**A** five day training course on 'Low Cost Mohalla-based Solid Waste Management' (SWM) was organized by the Municipal Training and Research Institute from Sep. 12-16 1992. 29 participants including sanitary inspectors, officers, engineers and repre-

sentatives of NGOs attended the course sponsored by UNICEF. Khatib Ahmed, Radia Khatib and Dr. Rehan Tayab (all are SHEHRI members) along with several experts discussed various aspects of SWM while Amir Masood represented SHEHRI as a participant.

A field trip to the ZMC Central Workshop, Karachi Administrative Society and recycling industries was also arranged.

The objectives were to discuss and identify: 1) problems associated with storage, collection, disposal and transportation of waste in Low Income Areas (LIA) 2) importance of planning a SWM programme in LIA 3) train participants about SWM using new techniques in an organized manner 4) possible hazardous waste and its safe disposal 5) role of community participation, benefits of recycling/reuse and source separation 6) options like composting for catering to organic waste 7) review existing legislation and discuss taxation structure.

## Workshop on Waste Recycling

**A** workshop on "Promotion of Waste Recycling and Reuse in Developing Countries" was held on Aug. 24, 1992. Khatib Ahmed, (member, SHEHRI Managing Committee), presented a report on Waste Management and Recycling practices in Karachi with options for managing urban waste.

The workshop is part of a scheme of implementing a Pilot Project based on its conclusions in five Asian cities: Karachi, Manila, Kanpur, Bangkok and Djakarta.

The following conclusions were reached: 1) Provide health education etc. to scavengers 2) Encourage community participation 3) Strengthen authorities for better waste collection 4) Promote Recycling, Resource Recovery, Source Separation and fund recycling industries separately 5) Stimulate public awareness 6) Promote use of environment-friendly materials.

## SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

### SHEHRI's sub-committees:

- 1) Coastal Water Pollution sub-committee headed by Dr. M. Ajmal Khan.
- 2) Architectural Heritage sub-committee headed by Danish Azar Zubay.
- 3) Legal sub-committee headed by Qazi Faez Isa.
- 4) Publications sub-committee headed by Humaira Rahman.

(For further information on these sub-committees, please contact the SHEHRI office).

### Ongoing and Forthcoming Activities:

- 1) Jheel Park Project.
- 2) 'One Park Every New Year' is a proposal by SHEHRI member Akbar Gillani to set up and maintain a park every year. The first is at Street

6 in Block 5, Scheme 5, Clifton. Anyone interested in working on these projects should contact us at the SHEHRI office.

3) SHEHRI, along with the Goethe Institute, is organizing a dialogue between the German Minister for Environment and NGOs when the Minister visits Karachi in mid-November. The topic under discussion will be "The NGO Movement and Sustainable Development". Representatives of several NGOs will participate in this dialogue.

4) Seminar on 'Architectural Heritage of Karachi' scheduled for Oct./Nov. 1992 to be held jointly with a prize distribution ceremony for the winners of the Duarte Mansion competition.

# SCOPE

**S**COPE (Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment) was formed in 1988 by a number of environmentalists and professionals whose aim was to prevent environmental degradation. SHEHRI spoke to Mr. Tanveer Arif (President, SCOPE) and Ms. Shama M. Qureshi (Coordinator) both of whom seem committed and sincere about the work they are doing.

The first project taken up by SCOPE was in the field of drinking water purification. SCOPE took practical steps towards purifying the water supply as contaminated water is a widespread problem. A water treatment plant was designed and four of them were set up at different locations. The first one was in Malir, providing clean water to 40,000 people. SCOPE's aim in this project was to collaborate with other community NGOs, councillors etc. to successfully implement this scheme. The next two plants were installed at Saleh Mohd. village near Landhi and at Chianessar Goth (both urban areas) with the help of local NGOs. The most recent installation was at Rehri Myani Goth, a coastal village. In spite of a few initial problems when demand exceeded supply and when the political situation deteriorated

recently due to the crackdown on the MQM, SCOPE is confident that this project will expand further.

In the field of public interest litigation, the Kirthar National Park Highway controversy was also taken up by SCOPE. IUCN did an Environmental Impact Assessment and informed the Sindh government about the potential danger to the Park due to the construction of the highway. But the government had its own interests involved and the late Chief Minister, Mr. Jam Sadiq, disregarded the request. After this, SCOPE filed a petition which was admitted by the High Court in the first hearing and construction of the highway through the National Park has been stopped.

On September 1, 1992, SCOPE moved another petition, along with the Director, WWF and a biology student of Karachi University. This petition challenges the awarding of fishing rights in Haleji Lake to a private individual by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) through an auction.



A view of a water purification plant installed by SCOPE.

SCOPE has also established SEMRIC (Environmental Management Research and Information Centre) to provide a technical link between SCOPE and other qualified professionals and environmentalists. SEMRIC intends to promote indigenous technologies which

can be easily developed by local know-how and to involve technologies which are environment-friendly. Bio-technology, genetic engineering and arid zone development are just a few of the fields that SEMRIC intends to explore.

SEMRIC has undertaken the challenge to play an effective role towards the implementation of the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) with special reference to its pollution abatement and control. More than 70,000 small, medium and large industrial units in Pakistan are generating hazardous waste and pollution unthinkingly. They need technical help and professional assistance to solve their problems related with waste generation, pollution control and environmental management. In this connection SEMRIC has launched

its initial environmental survey programme to assess the pollution problems and their magnitude and propose optimum remedial solutions for these problems.

Both Mr. Tanveer Arif and Ms. Qureshi agreed that awareness about the environment and other related areas has increased to a certain extent in the country. They feel that awareness has to be created at

the grass roots level. A drastic campaign is required to make the common person aware about the relationship between environment, health, education, hygiene etc. and this is what SCOPE hopes to achieve.

**CONGRATULATIONS,**  
**SCOPE!**

**THE HOUBARA BUSTARD IS SAVED FROM EXTINCTION**

On August 16, 1992, the Sindh High Court, Karachi, gave a verdict in favour of SCOPE's constitutional writ petition filed in the court for the protection of the Houbara bustard in November 1991.

The whole effort and the court's verdict is a landmark in the course of the implementation of the recently held Earth Summit's mandate to protect the biodiversity of the planet Earth.

SHEHRI hopes that this ruling is the first step towards the preservation of all our natural species, and that others will follow the example set by SCOPE.

## URBAN RESOURCE CENTRE

**U**RC, another NGO, focuses on solving urban issues with special attention paid to the problems of Karachi. Mr. Kenneth Fernandes, Coordinator URC, says that the organization feels that Karachi, like other metropolitan cities in developing nations, faces enormous pressures of growth and development. These pressures are putting a strain on its infrastructure, civic and basic amenities. The result is massive environmental degradation, deteriorating infrastructure and an absence of adequate housing and social services. This is augmented by inadequate, inappropriate and outdated government policies and institutional arrangements.

At present URC is working towards providing a solution to the Lyari Expressway problem- this is a proposal to build an elevated expressway over the length of the Lyari River, from Mauripur Road to Sohrab Goth. The purpose of the Expressway is to provide a rapid road link for freight and related traffic to and from up-country, to the port and markets in the inner city. However, the Project, if implemented, will be disastrous for Karachi, says Mr. Arif Hasan, the Chairman of URC. It will create immense



A monthly forum with former DG SKAA (Sindh Katchi Abadi Authority), Mr. Tasneem Siddiqui.

environmental problems for the city in general and for Lyari in particular. Apart from the fact that it will be a physical monstrosity, it will lead to massive environmental degradation in Karachi- something this already overcrowded and highly polluted city should not be subjected to.

"On both sides of the Lyari River, there are large settlements with densities as high as 2,000 persons per acre and studies show that pollution levels over here are well above bearable limits. Ironically, the sewerage filled Lyari River and the

open space on either side of it acts as a lung for the inner city. The Expressway ignores this potential of the Lyari corridor as a lung for the city and will bring noise and air pollution to perhaps the only area in the inner city where it is absent."

URC has proposed solutions for the problems that this Project has created and it remains to be seen whether they will be accepted.

Besides the Lyari Expressway Project, URC also focuses attention on the plight of people living in 'katchi abadis' in the city. Government response

in this area has been very slow as the influx of people to these abadis is very high. Katchi Abadis are considered an eyesore by most people and they also depress the land value. As a result, a large number of people were recently evicted from Federal 'B' Area and North Karachi. They had all the prerequisites for their lease and could have been regularized, but their houses were bulldozed and they were evicted. Some were given alternative plots in the periphery of the city where no basic facilities were available. URC, along with a number of other NGOs, supported efforts to stop their eviction. URC did a study on this problem and published it in a prominent monthly national magazine.

URC is also building dossiers on some of the basic problems of Karachi like Water, Transport, Electricity etc. They maintain newspaper clippings on a variety of topics and every month a selection of pertinent news items are sent to a number of NGOs and government agencies. URC organizes regular forums on issues that affect people's lives, particularly those living in katchi abadis. The basic purpose of these forums, attended by government agencies, NGOs and CBOs, is to

highlight problems and initiate dialogues so that a more people-oriented policy will emerge. Recently, URC has completed a bibliography of studies done on Karachi and a second volume is now being compiled. The Centre has been invited to conduct training programmes for development workers from both NGOs as well as government agencies. They also do studies on urban issues and last year they conducted a study on Solid Waste Management for ESCSAP.

Both Mr. Tanveer Arif (SCOPE) and Mr. Kenneth Fernandes (URC) feel that there is not enough communication between NGOs and other social welfare organizations. Most organizations over here work in isolation which hampers their progress; if there was better communication and coordination between them, they could combine their resources and achieve a lot.

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URC: D-30, Paradise Palace Apartments, 255 Sarwar Shaheed Road, Karachi 74200. Phone: 5682120

# GREENING THE MILITARY

**T**here is not a shadow of a doubt that swords can be converted to ploughshares and rifles to rakes without blunting the cutting edge of the sword. - Major General Eustace D'Souza.

"Violent conflicts often stem from environmental conditions under which people are condemned to live, more as a result of human actions than Nature's. This calls for a redefinition of national security." The speaker is Major General Eustace D'Souza of India, now retired after 35 years military service and a consultant for the London-based Centre for International Peacekeeping (Generals for Peace). His report on using the military in environmental protection threw light on some of the new partnerships that parks managers will need to cultivate to promote long-term conservation of protected areas.

Some 24 countries have used their military for conservation, but only a minority use soldiers for environmental rehabilitation and regeneration.

"This minority surprisingly is from the developing world", General D'Souza observed. "There is a case for the affluent First World to take up re-forestation programmes, for example, in training areas used by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Germany."

India and Venezuela were among nine countries sponsoring a resolution put before the UN General Assembly in October 1990 calling on the Security Council to institute a study into using the resources available to the military to support civilian efforts to protect the environment.

Congressional leaders in the United States are also working to push through legislation on using military equipment for environmental work. Kathryn Cameron Porter, Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs for Conservation International is married to one of the sponsors. Republican Congressman John Porter from Illinois. "We are thinking of material such as tents, vehi-

**"Violent conflicts often stem from environmental conditions under which people are condemned to live, more as a result of human actions than Nature's. This calls for a redefinition of national security."**

cles, even boots for parks people on patrol," she said during an interview.

Other countries with active programmes involving the military include Bulgaria, where soldiers are used to plant forests. Cuba called in its army to plant over one million trees between 1986-1990. Jordan has formed special conscript units to assist the army in conservation programmes. Tanzania's

military carries out anti-poaching operations. The United Kingdom organized its service personnel to plant over one million trees in 1981. Venezuela's naval forces monitor pollution in marine waters. The authorities have also set up a scientific base in a military area, and the National Guard has carried out game warden activities for several decades. Vietnam launched a large-scale tree planting campaign by the army in defoliated areas.

"The military can be deployed profitably for protection, regeneration, scientific research, monitoring underwater degradation, measuring radiation levels and managing defence lands", Gen. D'Souza, a former IUCN Regional Coordinator for East Asia and ex-Secretary General of WWF-India, told the Congress. "The Navy can monitor pollution, poaching of marine resources and management of shore-based installations. The air force is in a position to report on the status of inaccessible areas, forest fires, sighting of endangered

species and management of the large number of restricted areas like airfields and bases. Service personnel can be profitably employed as wildlife wardens."

Thousands of service personnel retire each year, many still young and without the prospects of other employment. India, with nearly 50,000 personnel going back into civilian life each year, is perhaps the only country to tap this resource for ecological work. Gen. D'Souza told the Congress. The country has three Eco Territorial Army battalions, each commanded by a regular colonel and regular army personnel, but financed by the Ministry of Environment. "The men are mostly ex-servicemen recruited from the area, thereby ensuring a vested interest in their eco duties," Gen. D'Souza reported. "These pilot units have done commendable work in forestation, reforestation, soil conservation and other productive tasks."

(Article reproduced courtesy IUCN Bulletin, Vol. 23, No. 2, June 1992.)

## One-sided aid - a setback to development

By Navaid Husain

**T**he recent \$25 million grant to the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) by the Canadian government through CIDA is going to further widen the gap between the output of small and mid-sized NGOs and the AKF. Only last year, the EC countries gave away millions of dollars to the AKF and AKRSP (Aga Khan Rural Support Programme). This is in spite of the fact that most of the small and mid-sized NGOs are being run on voluntary time with shoe-string budgets. This argument is supported in an IUCN report which says "between large and mid-level NGOs there is a wide gap in size and budget." Obviously, the size and level of NGO activity is to a large extent limited by its budget. The IUCN Report goes on to say that the budgets of two dozen or so NGOs is less than \$100,000 (including that of SHEHRI). In actual fact, the budgets of "medium-sized NGOs" is less.

SHEHRI wastes a lot of time scrounging around for funds for its activities with the result many of the projects have to be scrapped due to paucity of funds. As such, there is a limit to the voluntary time its members can put in. This can result in 'burn out' and stifle NGO activity.

Another argument against building up extremely large NGOs is that it brings about an in-built bureaucracy with inevitable self-interests and waste.

Agreed that the AKF and the AKRSP have done good work but there is no denying that there exist within these organizations large bureaucracies. The Aga Khan Hospital is a case in point where the project estimate went up from \$8 million to over a \$200 million mark due to the cumbersome bureaucratic apparatus involved with the Hospital project (that took away close to 30 per cent of the project cost in the form of services and overhead costs). Turning a community development organization into a "Rolls Royce model NGO" is not the most sensible way of doing things.

Donor countries and agencies must bear in mind that responsive planning and community participation involves a broad outreach and this function can only be carried out by a larger number of participants. It is an easy way out to hand out grants to a few agencies. Grass-roots movements and particularly community work can only take place from a bottom-up approach rather than a top-down one.

The '50s-'70s saw aid and grants to third world governments when there were few NGOs in existence. There was massive corruption with the money ending up in the pockets of politicians, armed personnel and bureaucrats. Donors justified these hand-outs as a "filter-down" approach whereby it was presumed that

**SHEHRI, like other NGO's wastes a lot of time scrounging around for funds for its activities with the result many of the projects have to be scrapped due to paucity of funds. As such, there is a limit to the voluntary time its members can put in. This can result in 'burn out' and stifle NGO activity.**

money made through waste and corruption would find its way down to those who needed it.

Firstly, we should realize that development funds given out by donors are not to be regarded as discretionary hand-outs. These grants are meant to rectify global imbalances resulting from unfair pricing of raw materials from third world countries such as Pakistan. Secondly, these funds are a result of the "Polluter Pays Principle" which calls upon the North to pay in order to help improve the global environment as they are major contributors to global warming, ozone layer depletion and industrial pollution

due to their high level of consumerism. Thirdly, there must be consultation between donors and NGOs when it comes to distribution of grants, otherwise it makes a hash of the donor-NGO relationship known as "partners in development."

Small and mid-sized NGOs are also doing very effective work and deserve all the support they can get. Organizations such as the AKF and AKRSP had very substantial seed money to establish themselves with whereas other NGOs had to start off without resources and it has been an uphill task all the way.

As far as grants and developmental loans to the Government is concerned, the less said the better, as corruption and incompetence have assumed alarming proportions. The end result is wastage and shoddy developmental work which is poorly designed due to a low

level of professionalism. Kick-backs start right from the top due to lack of accountability and public cynicism as each government over the last twenty five years has failed to deliver. Therefore donors seriously wishing to be partners in sustainable development should have faith in the NGO movement and develop a sense of proportion in expressing their support.

SHEHRI, on behalf of other NGOs and concerned citizens appeals to all donors to review their decision in giving grants to the government or large NGOs. These scarce resources should be divided in a just and equitable manner through proper consultations. Failure to do so will prolong the old and often wasteful models of development which failed to change the lives of the vast majority and added to the third world's debt.

## CONGRATULATIONS EPA SINDH!

The Karachi Clean Air Project has been approved by the Federal Environment Protection Agency. The Project, which will create awareness to combat problems of pollution, will be financed by the Environmental and Urban Affairs Division of the Federal Government. A sum of Rs. 37 million has been sanctioned for the Project. SHEHRI hopes that after research has been carried out, EPAS will succeed in achieving its objectives.

The problems facing Karachi are not unique but if the government is to meet the increasing demands of urban expansion, it must seriously consider decentralizing more responsibilities for financing and managing urban services to local governments.

Local government officials can often plan investments in services in a more responsible manner because they have greater knowledge of local conditions and needs; they can more efficiently maintain services and infrastructure because they can monitor disruptions, breakdowns or deterioration; they can provide closer supervision of service delivery; and they can more easily create the enabling conditions necessary for private and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to participate in service provision.

But local governments are often weak administration units and have inadequate financial resources to fulfill their potential. In the Karachi metropolitan area, most local governments lack the skilled personnel to plan and manage service delivery efficiently or to expand the local revenue base. Municipalities are plagued with inefficient organizational structures and operating procedures, and lack clear legal authority to deal effectively with many local problems.

Financial responsibility is at the core of the concept of decentralization. Without the transfer of adequate financial resources or authority to raise financial resources, administrative decentralization is meaningless.

Under the federal system of government in Pakistan, the responsibility for urban development policy is split between the federal and provincial governments, while implementation is almost exclusively the responsibility of the provincial governments and the local government agencies constituted under them.

A number of urban services in Karachi are provided by federal agencies, primarily consisting of semi-autonomous or-



Photograph Courtesy "The Archaeology Quarterly"

ganizations, eg. electricity supply to the city is made by the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC) which has been merged with the National Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), with its head office in Lahore; Karachi Port Trust is under the administrative control of the Directorate General of Ports and Shipping in the Ministry of Communications in Islamabad; and the Karachi Gas Company which was responsible for gas distribution in Karachi was merged with the Indus Gas Company which caters for the whole province of Sindh.

Three departments of the provincial government play a major role in urban development. They are the Planning and Development Department (PPD), the Department of Town Planning and Housing, Local Government and Rural Development, and Karachi's government-owned bus company-Karachi Transport Corporation (KTC).

Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and cantonment boards (in the case of military settlements) are the basic units of urban administration. The KMC is the elected local government of the city, governed by a mayor and elected councillors. It is mainly concerned with urban maintenance functions. However, over time the municipal government has built up significant development capability. Its major responsibilities consist of public health, communications, fire protection, recreation, katchi abadis upgrading, primary edu-

cation and curative health. A second tier of local government has been created consisting of the zonal municipal committees (ZMCs).

The Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB), a subsidiary of the KMC, was formed in 1983 through a merger of KMC's water distribution and sewerage functions and the bulk water production operations of the Karachi Development Authority (KDA). The KWSB now performs these functions throughout the metropolitan area.

The KDA is the city's primary builder of infrastructure; its principal activity is the development of residential plots on publicly owned land in the city's periphery. It also builds apartments, roads, and flood control works, and constructs some water supply projects, as executing agent for the KWSB. In addition, it undertakes city master planning (the preparation of urban and regional plans for Karachi), building control and traffic engineering functions.

The counterpart of these local authorities in the cantonment areas is the Directorate of Military Lands and Cantonments.

The provision of municipal services in Karachi is the responsibility of agencies at the federal, provincial and local levels. As such, there arises the problem of coordination among these agencies eg. The Karachi Port Trust (KPT) is a federal authority which operates independently

of municipal agencies in the city. As a result, expansion of port capacity is not matched by corresponding improvement in the capacity of the city's roads and other infrastructure to handle the increased flow of goods.

The problems created by the multiplicity of municipal agencies at various levels of government is further compounded by the multiplicity of municipal agencies at the local level itself. In some cases, these agencies provide the same services and, in other cases, perform functions at variance with each other.

The problems arising from this lack of organizational coordination are manifold. For example, the KDA plans and develops new housing colonies without ascertaining from the KWSB whether the necessary water and sewerage connections can be made available. The KMC surfaces a road which is dug up within days by the telephone, electricity or gas departments for repairs or a realignment job.

The cantonment boards essentially operate as independent entities. Many of them are located in the relatively central parts of the city. The lack of coordination with the KMC and KWSB creates problems in delivery of services. The problem is particularly severe in the context of regularization and improvement of katchi abadis.

The principle of decentralized municipal management has, for the first time, been introduced to Pakistan with the formation of four ZMCs under the umbrella of the metropolitan corporation of Karachi. The boundaries of the ZMCs correspond with those of the administrative districts in the city. It, therefore, appears that the primary motivation of the decen-

tralization process is political control and management of a law and order situation rather than efficient delivery of municipal services.

The objective of efficient delivery of municipal services is, however, not likely to be served for two reasons. Firstly, the suggested integration of city-wide functions has not been affected. The KDA, Cantonment Board, and the KTC continue to function independently of the KMC, the KWSB and each other. Coordination between the KMC and KWSB is ensured since the mayor heads the KWSB as well.

Secondly, the ZMCs, on average, cover a population of over 2 million, each spread over an area of 122 km to 2,407 km. The ZMCs are, therefore, equal in size to an intermediate-sized city in Pakistan. The decentralization process has, therefore, remained restricted. The result has been that of losses due to enhanced administrative overhead costs without the resulting gains which would have accrued from greater community participation and expression of local preferences in smaller units.

The objective of efficient delivery of municipal services can be met only if the city is organized and managed on an efficient basis. The tax administrative machinery too, needs to be rationalized. Since the provincial government transfers 85 per cent of property tax to the KMC, there is no incentive and rationale for it to retain collection of the tax. Property tax collection should, therefore, be transferred to the KMC. Collection of other municipal rates such as water, sewerage, and conservancy must also be centralized with the KMC to derive scale economies in revenue collection. It would, however, be necessary to create a qualified staff cadre at the KMC to man the tax collection department. Therefore, from the foregoing discussion, it can be concluded that it is imperative to take measures at two levels viz. integration of city-wide functions and effective decentralization of local level functions.

(Mr. Bengali is a founder member of SHEHRI CBE and a former member of its Managing Committee. He is Chief of Research at SEBCON, Islamabad.)

## READERS' VIEWS

From: Mr. Riaz Siddiqi

The publication of SHEHRI is a commendable presentation towards the mission to promote awareness for a better environment. Harsh urbanization has robbed us of aesthetic values and the vital process of integration with nature. The quotation of Margaret Mead at the head of the issue is persuasive. That is what the radical and naturalist novelists and poets of the U.S.A. have been highlighting after 1890. But nobody, neither the industrialists, bureaucrats nor their institutions cared for this.

I am of the opinion that newspapers like yours be published preferably in Urdu and provincial languages instead of English. The problem of environment is no issue for the upper class. They create paradises for their families. The issue, in fact, haunts poverty-stricken under classes who constitute the absolute majority but are unfamiliar with English. One fact that we, the learned ones, ignore is that in spite of all efforts, incentives and illusory theory-theorization by the bureaucrats, the upper classes and sta-

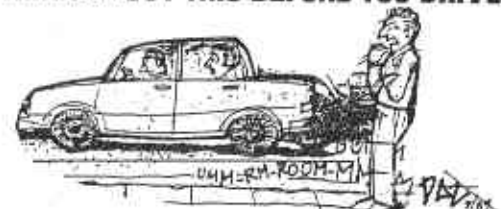
tus-oriented scholars, English will never come amongst the masses.

I do admire the spirit of SHEHRI, but what about its participation with the masses?

Editor's Note: The point Mr. Siddiqi has made is a valid one. However, as of July 1992, SHEHRI has begun to publish its newsletter in Urdu also.

SHEHRI invites all its readers to send us letters expressing their views etc. However, please try to keep your letters to a maximum of 200 words as our space is limited.

## THINK ABOUT THIS BEFORE YOU DRIVE!



Cars emit 20% of the world's fossil fuel carbon dioxide and 34% of the nitrogen oxide spewed out each year.

Cars give off 20lbs of carbon dioxide for every gallon of gas consumed. Get a smaller car, share rides and use public transport more.

Courtesy Asian Pals of the Planet.

## Supreme Court Seeks Reports on Pollution

All the big petroleum and chemical manufacturers including multinational ones were issued notice by the Supreme Court of Pakistan to supply complete information within two weeks about their way of working.

The Supreme Court Single Bench, comprising Mr. Justice Saleem Akhtar, issued notices to dozens of industries including National Refinery, Pak-Arab Refinery, Pakistan State Oil, Pakistan Butmah Shell, Caltex Pakistan Ltd., Multi Chemicals, Agro Chemicals, Allied Chemicals, ICI Pakistan Ltd., Engro Pakistan Ltd., Ciba Geigy Ltd., Hoechst Pakistan Ltd. and asked them to supply full details about export of chemicals, location of their factories, nature of manufacturing, chemicals used, meth-

ods of disposal etc.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan had taken cognizance of the matter relating to environmental pollution caused by Industrial Waste under Article 184(3) of the Constitution of Pakistan.

In this Case No. 14, the Supreme Court had considered a study done by the NED University of Engg. & Technology. The study disclosed that when a sea water sample was sent for testing to a laboratory in London, it was returned with the remark that the same was not sea water but untreated sewage.

The study asserted that the industrial waste water produced by industries in SITE was discharged without any pre-treatment (though obligatory under

the law of the Factories Act, 1934) into a number of close by water-courses and finally discharged into the sea through the Lyari River. It pointed out that the tanneries located in Korangi discharged their effluent in open fields creating cesspools of poisonous liquids. In addition to severe marine pollution, the study said, the water in the cesspools and flowing through the Malir and Lyari rivers had percolated to the groundwater and contaminated it, raising levels of trace metals and fecal bacteria.

(By Zabe Azhar Hussain, Excerpts courtesy 'NEWS' Case No. 14 referred to above is Human Rights Case No. 14-K of 1992 initiated after the above case study was published in several newspapers.)

## Caltex Oil (Pak) Ltd. takes steps to prevent pollution

Caltex has taken an industry stewardship position in Environmental, Health and Safety issues related to its business, by taking the following measures:

It is the only oil company which installs all underground product tanks in a secondary containment system to eliminate underground pollution

due to any accidental product leakage. All gasoline at major terminals is stored in specially engineered floating roof storage tanks to eliminate release of toxic/leaded benzene vapours into the atmosphere. Caltex is the only oil company which has imported oil spill containment equipment to control accidental operational oil

spills in Karachi harbour waters. The Company also conducts regular environmental audits of its major facilities by experts from their corporate headquarters in the USA and actively participates in other environmental protection activities like seminars, workshops, projects etc. organized by NGOs and EPAs.

## What is Sustainable Development?

Sustainability is the key to the NCS approach. It acknowledges that species and ecosystems can only be preserved by being used, by contributing as fully to the economic well being of people as possible, particularly in developing countries where poverty is the greatest source of pollution.

Sustainable development, according to the Brundtland Report, is that "development which meets the needs of the

present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs", development that leaves an enlarged range of opportunities for the future.

Economic development that utilizes renewable resources as a source of raw materials or the environment as a depository for waste products, should ensure that consumption of the resources is sustainable for the life of that development, and at the completion of

that development the resource should be passed on undiminished, or enhanced. This requires multi-sectoral economic decision makers from both the public and private sectors to come together, to discuss the impact of economic activities on the environment with the purpose of ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.

Courtesy: Journalist's Resource Centre

## ATTENTION: RESIDENTS OF KARACHI

SHEHRI invites correspondence with residents of the 4 ZMCs regarding the work

being done by these Zonal Municipal Committees in their areas or any urban/civic issues

the residents wish to report that require action to be taken by the ZMCs.

### 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) \_\_\_\_\_

## 250 Water Samples Found Contaminated

All the 250 water samples which were collected by the inspectors of the KMC from different parts of Lyari have been found contaminated and unfit for human consumption, according to Municipal Committee (South).

The MC (South) had made a request to the Health Department of the KMC for finding out the extent of contamination of drinking water being

supplied to Lyari after last month's heavy rains in the city.

The KMC Health Department, after collecting 250 samples of water from various localities in Lyari, sent them for testing at the KMC laboratory.

The report revealed that all the samples were contaminated and thus unfit for human consumption.

Courtesy: 'DAWN'

## Japanese way of Disposing of Garbage

Many Japanese head to work with more than a briefcase in the hand. A growing number are taking their household garbage with them to dump at railway stations en route.

As rising temperatures and infrequent rubbish collection make household refuse an odorous problem, many Tokyo commuters prefer to take their trash

to the train station. Fish bones, tea bags and vegetable peel are often dumped, said a rail company spokesman.

"If we catch offenders, we tell them this is not the place to throw their garbage and ask them to take it to a proper place," said an official at a station on the Tokyo circle line used by 120,000 commuters daily. - Reuter.

## Saviours of the Planet

Sweden's Roland Tiensuu, 12, thinks that preserving the earth is too important to be left to grownups. Three years ago, the boy learned from his teacher about the relentless destruction of the rain forests of Latin America. Tiensuu was worried that by the time he and his classmates grew up, there would be no rain forests left to save. Under their teacher's guidance, Tiensuu and the rest of his class organized a bake sale in their small village of Fagervik and raised enough money to

buy four hectares of rain forest in Costa Rica's spectacular Monteverde Reserve. Their campaign gave birth to Barrens Regnskog, or the Children's Rain Forest, a nonprofit organization whose young supporters in several thousand Swedish schools have bought 7,000 hectares of jungle with the \$1.5 million they have raised so far. School children in Germany, Japan and the U.S. have followed suit.

Courtesy 'Time'

## NGO COLUMN

Are you or your organization doing anything to improve (or prevent further degradation of) the environment? If so, please send us the information so that we can disseminate it.

## New Members

Our new members for the months of July and August are:

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Mohd. Humair Ahmad        | 16. Ms. Nadra Niaz Khan      |
| 2. Ms. Zulekha Ali               | 17. Mr. Farhan Anwar         |
| 3. Mrs. Naheed Tasneem           | 18. Ms. Tahira Nauman        |
| 4. Mr. Viqar Ali                 | 19. Dr. Muhammad Rehan Tayab |
| 5. Syed Siraj Munir              | 20. Ms. Laila Lakhani        |
| 6. Mr. Haider Wahab              | 21. Mr. Akbar Gillani        |
| 7. Ms. Kiran Ahmad               | 22. Ms. Shaista Firdousi     |
| 8. Mr. Ejaz Mohammad Paracha     | 23. Mr. Riaz Siddiqi         |
| 9. Mr. Asama Mirzo Rizki         | 24. Mr. Salman Manzoor Hasan |
| 10. Mr. Shahzad M. Ansari        | 25. Mr. Amir Nazir Chaudhary |
| 11. Mr. Ahsan A. Siddiqui        | 26. Ms. Fareeha Munir        |
| 12. Mr. Ismail Ali Mohd. Chanchi | 27. Mr. Amir Masood          |
| 13. Mrs. Z.S. Qureshi            | 28. Mian Zafar Iqbal         |
| 14. Mr. Mohd. Ali Butt           | 29. Dr. Zaki Hasan           |
| 15. Mr. Asim Qureshi             |                              |

# OUR HERITAGE

2



Courtesy "The Archaeology Quarterly"

1. The first-ever bank Sindh had was the Sindh Provincial Cooperative Bank, having its own building, which has now been pulled down. Opposite the Sindh Madrassah, a protected monument, this masterpiece in stone was typical of the local stone structures of its time, but was not spared. The building still standing intact next to it is Kulsumbai Mansion which awaits the same fate, having been sold to a developer.
2. Habib Bank is contributing to let parts of this stone structure remain standing, much to the



Courtesy "The Archaeology Quarterly"

frustrations of the landlord. This was originally a residential quarter, later converted into commercial offices. Now if Habib Bank defaults on the payment of the rent for three months, the building comes down.

## 'A PASSAGE TO FEROZABAD'



**D**riving down main Shahra-e-Faisal one is bound to notice the recent cut made in the island of the main road opposite Ferozabad Thana road. However, no one has ever been seen using it — except the Chief Minister who lives down the street.

## THE GULF WAY CRISIS

**S**erious violations of the building rules are being committed by the builders of Gulf Way Towers, a commercial construction in Block 8, Clifton. The builders of Gulf Way Towers, Hussein Developers, are continuing with this construction on an amenity plot, which is a flagrant violation of the Karachi Building Control Authority (KBCA) plan. Several laws regarding Compulsory Open Space (COS), number of floors, pro-

vision for parking etc. have been totally disregarded.

SHEHRI helped the residents of Block 8 Clifton file a petition against the builders in May 1992. According to one of the residents of the area, stone cutting and construction taking place too close to their houses has damaged several boundary walls. Other complaints are: contamination of the water supply due to overloading of the sewerage system and acute shortages of both water and electricity.

Such blatant violations of the law occur when private profit gains priority over public good, through bribery and corruption of public institutions. However, the residents of Block 8, Clifton have not given up their fight and are hopeful that they will win their case. The residents, with the assistance of SHEHRI, are determined to fight for their civic rights and are taking up a similar legal suit against Cliff Towers which is in the same area.

## WHO NEEDS FLOWERS?



**T**he sight of the ubiquitous black plastic bag 'adorning' our electric poles, telephone wires and streets is a common one. The above picture shows some of these bags 'decorating' a bush. Why not use biodegradable bags made from recycled paper

instead? A beginning could be made by the government banning the manufacture of the black plastic bag and extending easy loans for setting up cottage industries for recycled paper. Perhaps the EPA Sindh could set an example for other EPAs by taking this

## POPULATION FACTS

1. As of 1992, the population of Pakistan has grown to around 11.9 crore.
2. About 45 per cent or 5.4 crore of the population does not have access to health services and the same number do not have access to safe drinking water.
3. Around 80 per cent of the population or 9.5 crore do not have access to sanitation.
4. On average, four persons live in one room.
5. Around 66 per cent of the population (age 10 and over) or 5.6 per cent are illiterate. There are only 4.5 female literates to 100 male literates.
6. Only 66 per cent children of primary school age are enrolled. In other words, 55 lac children of primary school age have no schooling facilities.
7. About 28,000 mothers die due to child birth.
8. About 52 per cent of all children are malnourished.
9. The food import dependency ratio has increased from 3.6 in 1970 to 13.7 in 1987.
10. Nearly 30 per cent or 3.7 crore people in the country are below the poverty line.

These are just a few facts based on current information and projections. What would be the social and economic situation if the population continues to grow at the current rate of around 3 per cent per annum or if the average of six births per woman of reproductive age continues unabated. The nation as well as individuals should pause and think.

Compiled by the National Institute of Population Studies.