



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

April- June 1999 Vol. 9/No. 2

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## What fate, the Kirthar National Park?

*As the complex problem of balancing conservation needs and development provides the basis of the ongoing debate over the fate of the rugged terrain and precious wildlife of the Kirthar National Park, Saleka Enver of Shehri sets the issues in their proper perspective and raises some pertinent questions in this Shehri Special Report.*

Attack and defence strategies are being formulated, while strategic retreat is also an option. Alliances are being formed and battle fronts are being surveyed as the combatants manoeuvre for tactical positions. No, it is not India and Pakistan that are preparing for (yet another!) military confrontation, rather it is the conservationists and developers who are locked, eyeball to eyeball in a different kind of war theatre — The Kirthar National Park.



As the fate of this magnificent nature reserve, which offers a panorama of pristine arid land of vast spaces, clean air, wide undulating valleys and rugged hills hangs in balance, we try to identify as to who are the combatants and what are the causes of tension and conflict in this classic debate which promises to test the limits of conservation needs and

resource development in our country.

Kirthar National Park is a protected area spread over 1192 square miles (see box) situated in Pakistan's south eastern province of Sindh, 80 kms north of Karachi city.

Kirthar, designated as a National Park in 1974, also figures in the United Nations listing of National Parks of 1975. It was the first Pakistani park to be listed as such.

So, why is such a sanctuary subject to a national controversy? It is so, because of events which began to unfold in July 1997, when the Ministry of Petroleum (Directorate General of Petroleum Concessions) granted the Dumbar Block Exploration License to Premier Exploration Pakistan Ltd.

As the Dumbar Block encompasses more than 90% of the Kirthar

### Kirthar National Park Basic Facts

Kirthar was designated as a National Park by the Sindh Forestry and Wildlife Department in 1974, following a study on Pakistan's wildlife and protected areas by Guy Montfort and Dr. Duncan Poore in 1968. It is the first of Pakistan's parks to be included in the United Nation's listing of National Parks of 1975, a status reaffirmed in 1997.

The park, spread over 1192 square miles, offers a varied terrain rising to 3294 feet at Karchat mountains and sinking



C-Pg. 3

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Interested contributors should contact the SHEHRI office for writers guidelines. SHEHRI newsletter readership is from students, professionals, environmentalists, policy makers, NGOs and other organizations.

Views expressed herein do not necessarily express the views of the Editor/Editorial Board.

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**EDITORIAL****Castles In The Sand**

The noted economist, late Dr. Mahbul-ul-Haque once said, "No illiterate society has ever become an industrial tiger". Pakistan, despite shouldering the shameful, humiliating and utterly disgraceful burden of being one of the most illiterate nation in the world, hopes to bare its fangs in the not too distant future.

A thinking mind does not sympathize with the thought processes of our successive ruling elite, who possess the audacity of making such claims, instead it is both insulted and outraged at this blatant disregard of the sensitivities of a battered and bruised society.

As the village girl travels miles to gather a bucketful of polluted water, as another miserable child dies for lack of proper health care and as another desperate unemployed youth takes to drugs and crime, we are told that the light is shining brightly at the end of the tunnel.

For a nation to prosper and progress, it needs to get its priorities right and set clear and achievable development goals. Investment in human development through provision of high quality mass education and health care facilities is followed by initiation of policies and plans for industrial and technological growth, fueled by the energy and drive of a highly trained and robust workforce.

We talk of technological growth, but where are the technicians and scientists? We talk of developing software parks, but where are the software developers? We talk of entering the 21st century, yet have we checked whether we actually boarded the train which travelled through the 20th century?

To describe the directionless state of our aimless march, one is tempted to quote a couplet of Mirza Asad Ullah Khan Ghalib.

رومیں ہے رخس عمر کہاں دیکھیے تھمے  
نے ہاتھ باگ پر ہے نپا ہے رکاب میں



National Park and Mahal Kohistan Wildlife Sanctuary, this move was initially resisted by the Sindh Forest and Wildlife Department (SFWD), who are responsible for the areas management. SFWD expressed grave concerns about the negative effects of any oil and gas exploration activities on the parks wildlife and environment.

They referred to legislations prohibiting such activities in a protected area. These include the Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1972, Sindh Wildlife Amendment Act 1993 and the relevant notification of the Sindh Government in 1997. Some NGO's like the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) also raised concerns. (*Kirthar qualifies for the criteria fixed by IUCN as a Category II protected area*).

The matter remained in the doldrums until recently, the former Governor of Sindh Lt. General

Moinuddin Haider set up a high level committee (chaired now by the Chief Secretary, Sindh) to address the issue and take action. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and IUCN were also included in the committee. However, IUCN later declined to participate in the process citing its disapproval of some sections of the Committee TOR which suggested moves to look into the possibility of suitably amending the relevant legislations, to facilitate the process of mining for oil and gas in the Dumbar Concession.

Prior to this meeting, Premier Exploration had merged with the powerful Shell Oil Group internationally, thereby adding considerable clout in their operations.

The first meeting of the Committee was held on 24th July 1999, in which the need to meet the pending energy needs of the country was emphasized and it was decided that the Government of Pakistan would appoint an independent environmental consultant through an open bidding process to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to establish the present ecological status of the park.

This is to be followed by an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which would look into the impacts of exploration activities on the parks environment and suggest mitigation measures. This is how matters stand at present.

However, while

**C-Pg. 1 (Basic Facts)**

to 230 feet above sea level at Hab Dam, in the south west extremity of the park.

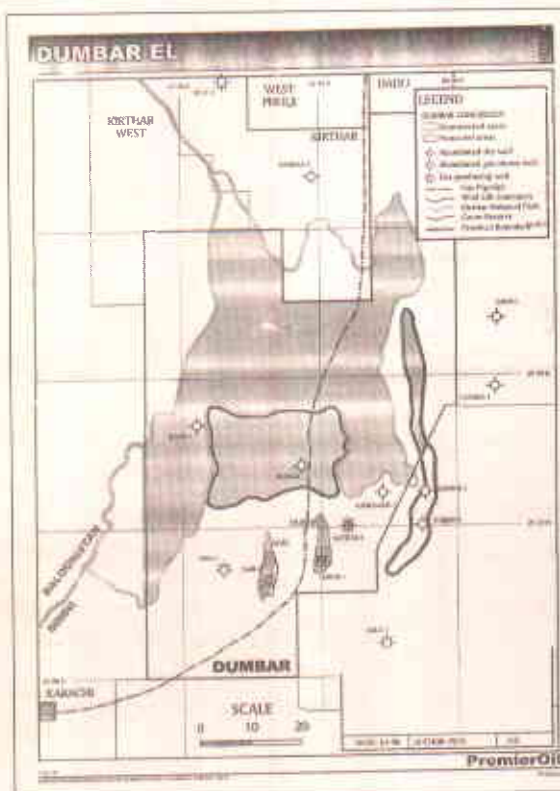
Some 10,500 people live permanently in the park in 93 villages. Twenty of these fall in the Karachi District and seventy three in Dadu District.

Twenty six principal species of mammals are believed to occur in the park including Sindh Wild Goat (Sarah or Ibex) Wild Sheep (Urial or Gad) Chinkara Gazelle, Jackal, Fox, Striped Hyaena, Desert Wolf, Jungle Cats, Leopard, Hedgehog, Pangolin, Porcupine, Badger and Mongoose. The family of reptiles is also well represented here. Large Monitor Lizards, Geckos, Turtles, Tortoises among other species are not an uncommon sight here. About 58 varieties of birds also find habitat in the park.

Apart from wildlife sightings, the park also offers some other unique picnic spots. Hub Dam and lake, Pakistan's third largest Dam after Tarbela and Mangla is located within the park confines.

The largest of the worlds historic forts "*Rannikot Fort*", also straddles the hills of the Kirthar range. The tombs at Taung, similar in their construction to the famous Makli Hills tombs in Thatta are another attraction, while prehistoric archaeological remains of habitation near Koh-Tarash are also located in the Park area. □

**- Saleka Enver**





SFWD still has reservations on the issue, the NGO's have openly objected to the steps being taken by the GOP-Oil Companies combine.

Seven NGO's based all over the country, have jointly endorsed a plan of action aimed at preserving the protected status of the park. This group includes WWF, Sungi Development Foundation, SDPI, PILER, Creed Alliance, Aurat Foundation and Shirkat Gah.

They stress that in the presence of clearly worded legislation prohibiting mining activities in protected areas, the government cannot allow for gas exploration activities to take place in the Kirthar National Park and any decision to permit the initiation of an EIA Study would imply agreement with the project in principle, against which the NGO's hold strong reservations.

The NGO group instead propose the preparation of an indepth neutral study which prepares a management plan for the park from the point of conservation. This they emphasize is different from the study suggested by the government, which is activity specific.

IUCN, more or less favour this line of action, however, they appear to leave the room open for possible future development activities in the park, subject to intensive study and analysis of the parks environment and identification of potentially highly sensitive ecological areas. It is quoted from IUCN's "Brief Case Study on Exploration for Gas in Kirthar National Park" (August 1999).

"The study can survey the status of the park, and - based on the findings - possibly recommend certain geographical areas to be

prioritized for conservation. Following these recommendations, a plan can be formulated for management of the park, and subsequent monitoring by an independent body. The plan can also lay out a framework for conducting

that natural gas is a much more environment friendly fuel source as compared to oil.

Premier-Shell also say that the method of drilling that they would employ (deviated drilling) would

### WHAT IS A "NATIONAL PARK"

A National Park is a relatively large area (at least 1,000 hectares): where

- One or several ecosystems are not materially altered by human exploitation and occupation, where plant and animal species, geomorphological sites and habitats are of special scientific, educative and recreative interest or which contain a natural landscape of great beauty.
- The highest competent authority of the country has taken steps to prevent or eliminate, as soon as possible, exploitation or occupation in the whole area and to enforce effectively the respect of ecological, geomorphological or aesthetic features which have led to its establishment.
- Visitors are allowed to enter, under special conditions, for inspirational, educative, cultural and recreative purposes. □

*(Definition of a National Park as approved by the 10th General Assembly of IUCN, held in New Delhi, November 1969).*

development activities in certain zones based on the results of the in-depth study".

Apart from the information available in the two promotional videos prepared on the subject by Premier-Shell Exploration, the group has declined to go public with their position, particularly of late.

They apparently stick to their previously stated position that firstly such a project is the need of Pakistan as Pakistan's existing gas reserves are declining sharply, discovery and development of large gas reserves would reduce Pakistan's dependence on expensive imported sulphur oil, the consumer would pay less for consuming gas as compared to oil and also

drastically reduce the possibility of environmental damage and sensitive ecological areas would be fully protected.

They also hold out the option, that given a chance, they would turn the Kirthar National Park into a functional world class nature reserve.

So where does all this information leads us to and what could be a possible solution to this apparant dead lock? It has to be stated that in the presence of prohibitive legislation, no exploration activity can be allowed to take place in the park. But what if the law is amended, as is evidently the desire of the government?



What tangible guarantees can the Shell-Premier Exploration Group offer that no damage will be caused to the parks ecology and what penalties will be imposed if such is not the case? This is a question which remains to be answered.

Then there is the question of meeting the concerns of the various conservation groups and NGO's.

Is there a precedent to such a situation where the activities of conservation and development go hand in hand? Maybe an analysis could be made of the experiences of the US National Wildlife and Refuge Service, where in the protected nature refuge reserves of the US, "secondary uses", such as mining operations are allowed.

It is also a matter of some concern that the public at large has not exhibited a high level of involvement in this issue. However, there are valid reasons to explain this behaviour.

The best guarantee that a facility like the Kirthar National Park could get for its protection is that it becomes a public issue. But how can it become a mass level public issue when a vast majority of the masses know next to nothing about the park. It is pertinent to ask at this stage of the SFWD officials, what efforts have they made over the years to develop and popularize this park.

Most people do not even know how to get to the park, let alone know whats inside it! and this, when the park is located just a few hours drive from the most densely populated sector of Pakistan - Karachi.

It has been reported that on an average, 2 to 3 persons visit the

park every month! It has also been reported somewhere that the Josimite National Park in California is visited every year by about 4 million people!!

Also, what efforts are made to protect and monitor Kirthar National Park's wildlife and what revenue is generated from this vast nature reserve annually? Surely, the answers to these questions will put us all to shame.

No wonder, apart from a few die hard NGO's nobody seems to be bothered. It is an issue on which the whole of Karachi and the rest of Pakistan should have stood up and said, "we want to save this park"!

The answers to issues where the concerns for conservation and

development clash are not simple. Various complex inter-relationships have to be established and sustained between political, social, economic, technical and environmental facets of the debate.

**Is there a precedent to such a situation where the activities of conservation and development go hand in hand? Maybe an analysis could be made of the experiences of the US National Wildlife and Refuge Service, where in the protected nature refuge reserves of the US, "secondary uses", such as mining operations are allowed.**

As the pro and anti project camps manoeuvre for position, what has to be realised is that the ultimate beneficiaries of any action taken by the government would have to be the people of the state.

Sane heads are needed at this important hour of decision, capable of maintaining the critical balance between conservation concerns and issues of national development to the benefit of all concerned. □

*(Saleka Enver is a Citizen Activist and Member of Shehri-CBE)*



Wildlife is not the only thing to be protected. The famous Ranni Kot Fort



## SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

### Working Session with the Media (Monday, 9th August, 1999, Hotel Marriott, Karachi)

In a working session with the local media, arranged by Shehri-CBE, in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the following agenda items were discussed.

- To discuss issues and concerns related with environmental journalism and seek strategies for a more knowledgeable, focussed and effective role for the environmental journalist.
- To explore modes and mechanisms for an effective and productive partnership between the local media and citizen groups.

#### Participants to the Discussion

- Local media representatives (print/electronic, belonging to both government and the private sector).
- Core members of Shehri-CBE

Mr. Farhan Anwar, Executive Member, Shehri, who moderated the working session, explained the reasons for arranging the ses-

sion and identified the guidelines for debate and discussion.

Mr. Anwar said that it had to be established what priority environmental issues are receiving from the local print and electronic media and whether environmental news even had a clearly defined status and classification in our journalism.

Another issue which Mr. Anwar highlighted in his introductory remarks, was the fact that the concept of "specialized correspondents", specifically trained and qualified in their area of work is conspicuous by its absence in our journalism. How much does this shortcoming effect the quality of local environmental reporting and analysis was another issue which needed debate.

Also meriting debate was the long standing issue of a pronounced qualitative gap, between the English and the vernacular press,



Mr. Farhan Anwar acted as Session Coordinator

when it came to coverage of social, economic and environmental concerns. The English press coming out far the better in this comparison, mostly by default!

The issue of tight state controls on the electronic media, a mode of communication which had a far greater potential of reaching the masses in a largely illiterate country like Pakistan was another matter which was opened for discussion.

Mr. Anwar, with the help of charts and figures also outlined various mechanisms through which media and citizen groups could forge partnerships, in working for a better, more open and



(L-R) Mr. Qazi Faez Isa, Mr. Khatib Ahmed, Mr. Roland de Souza



(L-R) Mr. Khalid Jamil, Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin, Mr. Shahzeb Jillani



tolerant civil society.

Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin, a senior and respected journalist, associated with the Jang Press was asked to open the general debate by Mr. Anwar.

Mr. Salahuddin identified three distinct barriers which hindered the positive effectiveness of the media in Pakistan. Namely, low levels of literacy, the language barrier and the stunted development of the Urdu Press in areas of social and economic news coverage and analysis.

He felt that since English is considered the language of the ruling classes and symbol of empowerment in our country, this fact has led to the lesser then required intellectual growth of the Urdu press, and since the Urdu press can reach far greater numbers of people, its potential for bringing positive changes in the society is being wasted.

Another drawback is the tight state control on electronic media, which also has a wide reach.

Ms. Sheen Furrakh of the Inter Press Communications, agreed with Ghazi's views and added that while English press fares better then the Urdu and regional language press, the emphasis overall of our media is too much on political issues, crime and scandals.

Mr. Shahzeb Jillani of the News, said that environmental news is not properly defined and receives a very simplistic classification in our press. Related issues like public health, economic spinoffs are not considered. Mr. Jillani said that environmental news is also given low priority and there are not many volunteers when it comes to taking an environmental beat.

Ms. Zofeen T. Ebrahim of Daily Dawn, said that there is no concept of "specialized correspondents", in our press and the journalists develop their own knowledge and understanding of the issue as they go along.

She also said that it is difficult for an environmental journalist to develop linkages while working on a story. Apart from accessing some NGO's, there is no available information as to who can offer what in developing a news report or a feature story.

Mr. Bhagwandas of Daily Dawn, agreed with this observation and

said that it is extremely difficult to get relevant data to support a report. Ms. Razeshta Sethna of Daily Dawn was of the view that while

**English is considered the language of the ruling classes and symbol of empowerment in our country, this fact has led to the lesser then required intellectual growth of the Urdu press, and since the Urdu press can reach for greater numbers of people, its potential for bringing positive changes in the society is being wasted**

covering sensitive social or environmental issues of human interest, a journalist needs to get involved and get a feel of the issue. She said that on such writeups, positive public feedback is received.

Mr. Ali Dayan Hasan of The Herald said that it is difficult to get a high level of professional output from journalists, considering the extremely low salary structures that exist in our media.

Mr. Qazi Faez Isa, Chairman Shehri, raised the issue of

in house surveys within newspapers to assess public opinion and other changing trends in society and asked whether there was such a practice in our newspapers. It was found that such was not the case.

Mr. Iqbal Jamil of Pakistan Television said that news reports on environmental issues were car-



(L-R) Ms. Mansoor, Ms. Razeshta Sethna, Ms. Zofeen T. Ebrahim, Ms. Saleka Enver, Ms. Amber Ali Bhai, Ms. Sheen Furrakh, Ms. Rehana Iftikhar, Mr. Saleem Shehzad, Mr. Bhagwandas, Mr. Ali Hassan, Ms. Mehwish Hussain

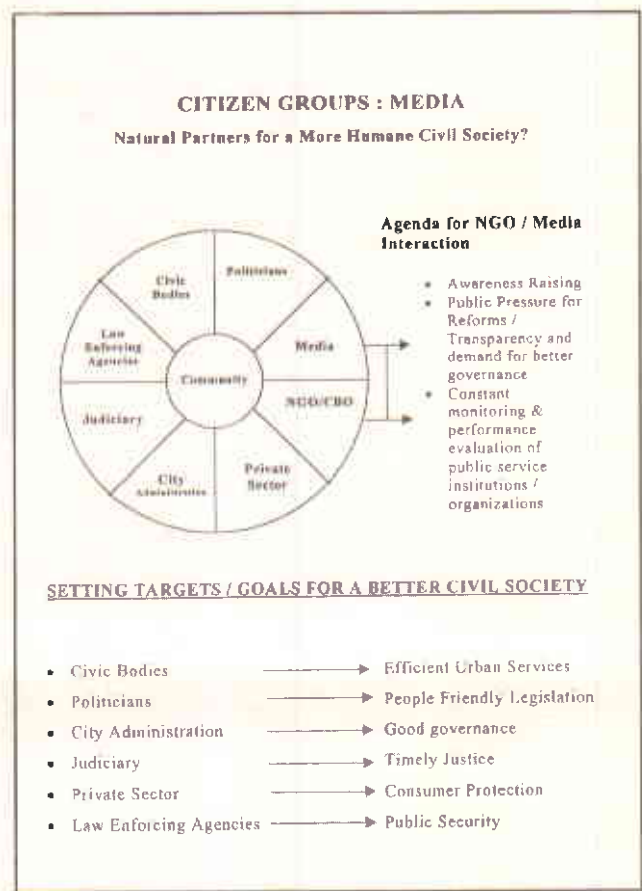
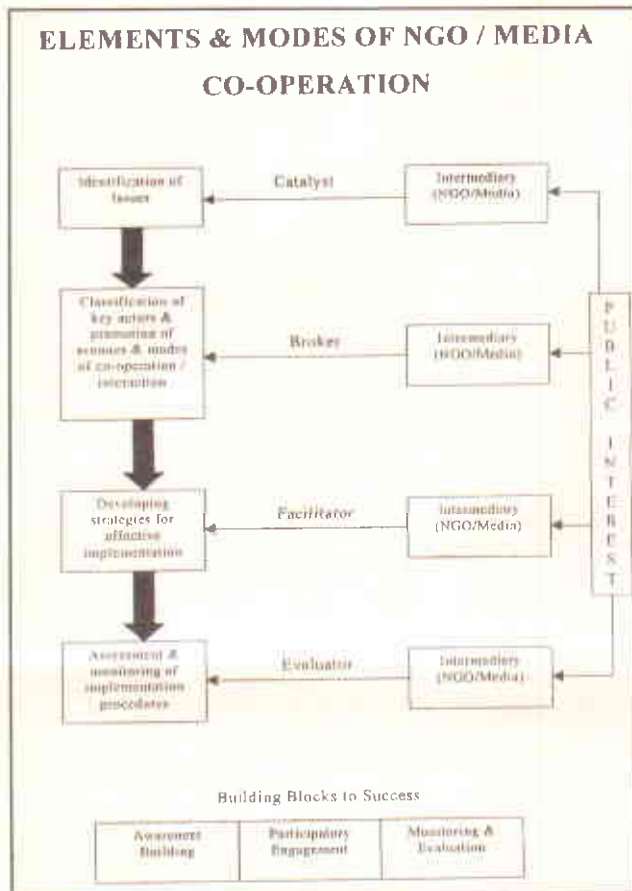


ried out by PTV. He however, agreed with the general perception that it was not a high priority issue on PTV and said that it was generally considered as a "boring" news item!

This interesting revelation, raised the question, "How

newsworthy is environmental news"?

It was suggested by Mr. Sultan Hasan that NGO's and other citizen groups have to somehow sell environmental news to the media by making it more



## Conclusions Drawn

1. Environmental issues are not properly classified in a wider perspective .
2. Properly trained and qualified "environmental correspondents", do not exist, even in larger publication houses.
3. Efforts to mould vernacular press towards mature, analytical and knowledgeable coverage of social, economic and environmental issues have not been very

successful but should be continued with, as Urdu and regional language press has a far greater access to public as compared to English press.

4. Environmental journalists have not developed enough linkages among NGO's, academic and research and development organizations as are required for knowledgeable coverage of issues.

5. There is lack of supporting data and information on environmental issues.

6. There is a gradual decline in

both the quantity and the quality of the coverage of environmental issues on PTV. Better standards were maintained in the past.

7. There is sufficient freedom for environmental journalists to make their presence felt within the media, provided they themselves are committed and knowledgeable enough on the subject. Maybe we need role models among environmental journalists like the late Ms. Zulekha Ali.

8. There is a need for greater interaction among the media and citizen groups. □





knowledgeable, interesting and appealing and maybe even "sensational"!

There was some disagreement on the level of "advice" and guidelines that come to the reporters and feature writers on which issues to cover and how to cover.

There was however, general agreement that there exists a reasonable level of latitude for journalists to effectively cover issues like environment according to their wishes, provided they themselves were committed, and knowledgeable enough on the subject.

It was also agreed that greater and continuous interaction between NGO's and media is essential for better dissemination of environmental concerns.

In the end, Mr. Farhan Anwar thanked all the participants and concluded the session. □

## PARTICIPANTS TO THE DISCUSSION

### MEDIA

Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin  
 Ms. Zofeen T. Ebrahim  
 Ms. Razeshtha Sethna  
 Mr. Bhagwandas  
 Mr. Syed Ali Hasan  
 Ms. Mehwish Hussain  
 Mr. Saleem Shahzad  
 Mr. Shahzeb Jillani  
 Mr. Shahid  
 Mr. Iqbal Jamil  
 Syed Sultan Hasan  
 Ms. Sheen Farrukh  
 Ms. Rehana Iftekhhar

Daily Jang, Karachi  
 Daily Dawn, Karachi  
 Daily Dawn, Karachi  
 Daily Dawn, Karachi  
 Herald, Karachi  
 Herald, Karachi  
 The STAR  
 The News, Karachi  
 Evening News, Karachi  
 PTV, Karachi Centre  
 Senior Journalist  
 Inter Press Communication  
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### SHEHRI-CBE

Mr. Qazi Faez Isa  
 Ms. Amber Ali Bhai  
 Mr. Farhan Anwar  
 Mr. Khatib Ahmed  
 Mr. Roland de'Souza  
 Dr. Syed Raza Ali Gardezi  
 Mrs. Mansoor  
 Mr. Mohammad Rehan Ashraf  
 Ms. Saleka Enver  
 Mr. Akhtar Mirza

Chairperson  
 General Secretary  
 Executive Member  
 Executive Member  
 Executive Member  
 Executive Member  
 Administrator  
 Asst. Coordinator  
 Member  
 Member

## CITIZEN POWER ON DISPLAY!

In pursuance of a Supreme Court order, dated May 3rd 1999, M/s. Excell Builders have started demolishing the illegally constructed portion of the infamous Glass Towers. Some 30 feet of the shopping centre-cum-office complex, spread over a length of 200 ft would be demolished, which would otherwise have hindered the widening of the main Clifton Road.



Shehri had been at the forefront of the citizen efforts to redress this flagrant illegality and with the assistance of an environment conscious judiciary, justice has been done-for all

to see. While all environment friendly citizens rejoice in this success, they also realise that the fight for a better environment is far from over, infact it has just begun! □



## Members day at Shehri

*Shehri management and members get together to discuss ways and means, whereby more active and productive involvement of Shehri members in Shehri projects and programs is ensured and new concerns and areas of work are identified*

**M**r. Farhan Anwar, Executive Member, Shehri-CBE, who chaired the meeting, informed the members that with the minimal manpower and financial resources available, Shehri had been able to make significant positive impacts in various sectors of urban development in Karachi. However, at the same time, Shehri management felt that with increased involvement of a greater number of Shehri members, the scope and impact of the organizations activities could be substantially enhanced.

The main purpose of the meeting was therefore to explore ways and means whereby members could engage more fruitfully in Shehri programs and projects. Mr. Anwar then opened the floor for debate and consultation.

Ms. Saleka Enver said that Shehri needs to enlarge its membership base further. Ms. Amira Javed suggested that Shehri cooperate with the already existing 'Muhalla Committees', in various neighbourhoods to gauge the mood of the public, identify their concerns and prepare strategies for improvement. Mr. Muslehuddin was of the opinion that similar cooperation

could be developed with the 'Cooperative Societies' and volunteered to start such a process in the Bahadur-Yar-Jang locality of Karachi.

Mr. Farooq Fazal suggested that Shehri should encourage its members to come forward with their complaints against various civic agencies, which Shehri secretariat could then forward to the concerned authorities. In this way, Shehri could get more involved with the citizen concerns.

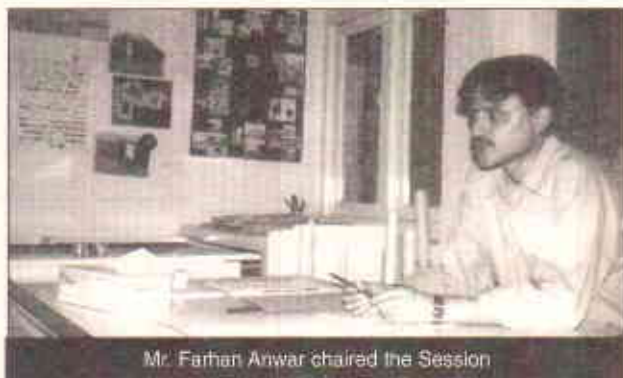
Mr. Mohammad Ali Rasheed put forward the proposal that Shehri should open its sub-chapters in various neighbourhoods. In this way, its membership would increase, more issues could be highlighted and Shehri's reach would multiply substantially.

A large majority of the members supported the idea of forming Shehri sub-chapters, gave their suggestions on how such a process could evolve and eight members volunteered to form Shehri sub-

chapters in their neighbourhoods. It was therefore decided that a separate meeting with the interested members would be held to further explore the feasibility of opening Shehri sub-chapters in the city.

Mr. Ather Zubairi suggested that Shehri should hold an environment week in the city, where various environmental issues of the city and their solutions should be highlighted through debates, paintings, models, skits etc. Such an initiative would improve Shehri image, develop more linkages with the concerned actors and generate revenue, which could then be used in Shehri projects.

Mr. Nisar Baloch proposed the holding of walks for generating more visibility and awareness. Ms. Amira Javed suggested greater use



Mr. Farhan Anwar chaired the Session



Mr. Khaid Ahmed acted as facilitator



Members participated enthusiastically in the session



of Pakistan Radio and FM-100 channels, as a majority of the people have easy access to this mode of the electronic media.

When the members were asked to prioritize their concerns, most of the members voted for solid waste management, while issues like water conservation and wastewater recycling also got highlighted. In this connection, Ms. Amira Javed suggested that Shehri should conduct



'Public Opinion Surveys' to help it in developing its future projects and strategies.

Mr. Farhan Anwar then concluded the proceedings. As the purpose of this meeting was to get member feedback on Shehri's working, no major decisions were taken.

It was however, decided to hold a further meeting to look into the possibility of opening Shehri sub-chapters in the city. A date for the meeting was not decided. □



### Shehri's Work in Karachi's Town Planning and Building Control: Goals and Benefits

#### Objectives

- Ensure implementation of the rules & regulations of Town Planning and Karachi Building Control Authority.
- Upgrade and unify the rules & regulations of Town Planning & Karachi Building Control Authority.
- Ensure wide dissemination and information and implement transparency
- Tackle corrupt officials in planning, building control, civil administration and utility agencies by constant vigilance and monitoring.

#### Benefits: To the citizens of Karachi

- Proper and essential utilities like water, sewerage, electricity, garbage

collection etc., will be available.

- Proper and modern infrastructure, education, health care, efficient public transportation, wide roads and adequate parking, proper open areas, parks, play-grounds schools, commercial areas, better law and order.
- Delivery of lawfuls flats and shops on time and of a proper quality (safety, proper planning, reasonable price)
- No illegalities in the construction and consequently no delay owing to court cases or demolition.
- Rise in citizens confidence, that justice will be done, as per the law.



## AWARENESS

### Towards a more aware citizen

*In his continuing series of articles, Khatib Ahmed educates the common citizen about the manner in which the system of civil governance works in our country*

**T**he inertia which has set in, and is the prime cause for inaction on the part of the people to change their condition, can be solved by transforming the perception of the people concerning their own status, and that of the managers/administrators of their affairs—the elected representatives and the paid employees. They must realise their responsibility to actively probe, question and demand redressal in cases of unsatisfactory performance by the government/public organisations.

#### Know Yourself - The Citizen's Status

The first act of the common citizen of Pakistan should be to realise his own status with regard to the power structure in his/her country. Where does the citizen stand in the hierarchy of powers and responsibilities? Where do the administrators/managers stand?

#### The Constitution of Pakistan

The country's Constitution contains explicit provisions defining the status of the citizen and also contains other articles, clauses on the need to strengthen local government institutions.

The preamble to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (12th April 1973) states -

#### Preamble

*"Whereas sovereignty over the entire*

*Universe belongs to Almighty Allah alone, and the authority to be exercised by the people of Pakistan within the limits prescribed by Him is a sacred trust"*

Almighty Allah is sovereign Lord. He has entrusted temporal authority, within the limits prescribed by Him, upon the people of Pakistan as a sacred trust (Amanat). So the people of Pakistan are Trustees (Ameen) and Viceregents, empowered to exercise authority in the affairs of the country.



It is indeed a great honour and with it comes greater responsibilities.

*"And whereas it is the will of the people of Pakistan to establish an order"*

Pursuant to the expression of the people's will to create an order, all state and public establishments have been formed to serve the interest of the people of Pakistan. It therefore follows that the responsibility to manage them

well and maintain their integrity rests on the peoples' shoulders. The need to know, watch over, help and monitor the disciplined working of these establishments is the duty of the citizen.

The citizen's lax attitude in this area of responsibility has been the prime cause of the current state of unsatisfactory affairs. It would be difficult to find a single public organisation which can qualify to be categorised as competently/efficiently managed. Continued passivity is certain to deepen the existing malaise.

If we take the case of local government institutions, then the constitution contains specific provisions to promote local government institutions (Article 32) and to decentralise government administration to facilitate expeditious disposal of business for public convenience (Article 37-i)

#### Articles 32: Promotion of Local Government Institutions

*"The State shall encourage local Government institutions composed of elected representatives of the areas concerned and in such institutions special representation will be given to peasants, workers and women"*

#### Article 37(i): Promotion of Social Justice and Eradication of Social Evils

*"Decentralise the Government administration so as to facilitate*



*expeditious disposal of its business to meet the convenience and requirements of the public"*

## Know Your Managers

### Elected Representatives

As provided for in the Constitution of Pakistan, citizens may be elected to offices, positions in the federal / provincial governments, or local/civic bodies, for a specified period of time. Since they receive remuneration from the public treasury, these elected representatives also fall in the category of Managers, and have obligations and rights towards the people who have elected them to the offices they may be holding. The broad features of these obligations and rights are:-

### Obligations

- Fulfill the terms and conditions of the oath taken
- Implement the promises made in the Manifesto to the electorate (at the time of elections)
- To be available to members of the constituency which has elected them and to act as their ombudsmen for solving problems faced by them in getting response / service from government establishments
- To shun corruption, favouritism and be fair in all their official and public dealings
- To always remember the living conditions (poverty) of his/her electorate and try to prevent wasteful spending by the government.

### Rights

In return for obligations rendered by the elected representative-

manager, he/she will be entitled to rights broadly specified as under:-

- Emoluments/allowances as approved from time to time by the parliament, provincial assembly, local councils
- Privileges to which he/she is entitled and as are approved by the national assembly, provincial assembly, local councils.

### Government (Civil) Servants

These managers are employed either by the federal, provincial or local government bodies/agencies, under clearly specified terms and conditions, which lay down their rights and obligations. Such persons are governed by the *Civil Service Act (1973)* and rules derived therefrom.

### Obligations

- To perform duties assigned to them, from time to time, efficiently and in a disciplined manner
- Not to indulge in or encourage corrupt activities
- Not to assume a style of living beyond justifiable means
- Not to indulge in subversive activities
- Not to indulge in politics, political activities, provincialism, parochialism, nepotism, favouritism and victimisation.

If the manager is not performing his duties as defined above, he/she is liable to be charged under misconduct under the *Act/Rules (ESTA Code, Chapter V, pages 401 - 598)*. Misconduct means conduct prejudicial to good order, or service discipline, or contrary to *Government Ser-*

*vants (Conduct) Rules 1964*, or unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman and includes any act on the part of a Government/Public Servant to bring political or other outside influence directly or in respect of any matter relating to the appointment, promotion, transfer, punishment, retirement or other conditions of service of a Government/Public servant; and if found guilty of misconduct, he/she is liable to be punished under the applicable Rules (as stated above) and be imposed with minor or major penalties as described below:

### Minor Penalties

- Censure
- Withholding, for a specific period, promotion or increment, otherwise than for unfitness for promotion or financial advancement in accordance with the rules or orders pertaining to the service or post
- Stoppage, for a specific period, at an efficiency bar in the time-scale, otherwise than for unfitness to cross such bar
- Recovery from pay of three whole or any part of any pecuniary loss caused to Government by negligence or breach of orders.

### Major Penalties

- Reduction to a lower post or time-scale, or to a lower stage in a time-scale
- Compulsory retirement
- Removal from service
- Dismissal from service

Removal from service does not, but dismissal from service does disqualify for future employment in government organisations. In this rule, removal or dismissal



from service does not include the discharge of a person:-

- Appointed on probation, during the period of probation, or training rules applicable to him/her or
- appointed, otherwise than under a contract, to hold a temporary appointment, on the expiration of the period of appointment: or
- engaged under a contract in accordance with the terms of the contract

The following procedures are required to be observed when proceeding against a Government servant, for any act of misconduct

- In case where a government servant is accused of subversion, corruption or misconduct, the authorised officer may require him to proceed on leave or, with the approval of the authority suspend him, provided that any continua-

tion of such leave or suspension shall require approval of the authority after every three months. Provided further that where the authority is President or Prime Minister, powers of the authority under this clause shall be exercised by the Secretary, Establishment Division.

- The authorised officer shall decide whether in the light of facts of the case or the interests of justice an inquiry should be conducted through an Inquiry Officer or Inquiry Committee. If he/she so decides, the procedure indicated in rule 6 shall apply.

#### Manager Rights

In return for the performance of his duties and obligations the manager (civil servant) is entitled to the following benefits.

- Pay in accordance with the

rules applicable to him

- Leave in accordance with the rules - the grant of leave depending on agencies of service at the discretion of the organisation / department / official competent to do so.
- Pension and Gratuity on retirement from service. In the event of death, his/her family will receive Pension / Gratuity (or both) as may be prescribed. He/she will not be entitled to either in case of dismissal from service.
- Provident Fund, in accordance with the rules.
- Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance in accordance with the rules.
- Right of Appeal / representation and removal of difficulties in accordance with the rules. □

*(Khatib Ahmed is Member, Managing Committee, Shehri-CBE)*

## A valuable resource for citizen activists



**M**r. Naim-ur-Rehman, a noted and respected lawyer of the city has developed a sound reputation of guiding and helping citizens in complex public interest cases. Shehri has also availed of his professional help in many of its cases to the benefit of the citizens at large. We need more such conscious and environment friendly lawyers who can act as role models. □



## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

A greater consciousness as to what is quality seems to be a major stepping stone benefit that the industry has received. Quality is now an issue. Naim Sadiq



*Naveeda Ali of Shehri discusses with Naim Sadiq, Director of Quality Concerns, about the process of implementation of management standards in Pakistan, and gets his views on the related issues and concerns.*

**Q.** Tell us a little about your organization and its areas of work.

**A.** Quality Concerns is a consulting house dedicated to consulting, training and auditing in the field of Quality Management, Environmental Management and Productivity Improvement Systems.

Established in 1995, it is one of the pioneers in this field of specialized management systems in Pakistan, and is one of the few consulting and training organizations in the world that are themselves certified to ISO 9001 quality systems standards. It has provided technical assistance to over 60 manufacturing and service sector organizations and trained over 4000 managers in the above field in Pakistan. A certification to ISO 9001 standards was received by Quality Concerns in July 1997.

We provide consulting and training services, operating in three different areas:

- ISO 9000 Quality Management Systems
- ISO 14000 Environmental Management Systems
- Productivity Improvement Techniques

**Q.** When were the first ISO standards developed and what were the reasons behind the framing of these standards?

**A.** ISO 9000 series of standards originated in 1987, purpose was to enable organizations to create management systems that would allow them to produce and deliver their products according to specified requirements of their customers consistently. The standards were also designed to create a preventive culture with organizations and to enable them to continuously improve the quality of their products and processes.

**Q.** What measurable positive impacts have they been able to achieve in the various industrial/development sectors worldwide?

**A.** Some studies indicate 20% to 30% improvement in different aspects of quality e.g. reduction in scrap/rework/wastage's etc.

**Q.** Tell us a little about the Pakistan experience.

**A.** No formal studies in Pakistan are available to indicate how much the industry has benefited. How-

ever, what has happened is an improved definition of how various activities are performed within an organization and clearly defined responsibilities for conducting those activities have developed. The level of documentation has improved and with that the level of transparency. Perhaps a greater consciousness as to what is quality seems to be the other major stepping stone benefit that the industry has received. Quality is now an issue.

**Q.** What is the Pakistan Government's policy vis-a-vis the ISO standards?

**A.** The government has an incentive scheme to compensate industries who achieve ISO 9000 certification. To the best of my knowledge, it is a much publicized but little implemented scheme. Its operation is cumbersome and bureaucratic and is thus seen more as a disincentive rather than an incentive.

**Q.** There is a concern that while big multinational groups may find it very easy to adopt these standards, the small local industrial units will struggle. Your response.

**A.** The concern is not valid, no



one has to spend a million dollars or climb a mountain to adopt ISO 9000 standards. All one has to do is to learn and understand its requirements and implement them in an organization regardless of its size or nature of work.

*Q. It is felt that the export potential and competitiveness of small and medium scale industrial units in third world countries is being seriously damaged by the imposition of these standards which are not compatible with their working environment and socio economic trends.*

A. One of the problems with the Third world (which is also the cause of its remaining the Third world) is, 'paranoia' and to look with suspicion at every thing that is new. I believe the success of a civilization lies in its ability to pick up good regardless of who is its inventor and to reject bad regardless of what its source may be.

A Third world industrial organization could only do itself good by being more qualitative and quantitative. It has nothing that conflicts with our culture or ethics, if at all, it requires us to 'do what we say and say what we do'.

*Q. What is the status of the implementation of the ISO-14000-1 standards in Pakistan?*

A. To my knowledge, only 4 companies in Pakistan have so far received certification to ISO 14000 standards. This should be enough to describe the status of this standard in Pakistan.

*Q. What is the relation of the ISO-14000-1 standards vis-a-vis other national environmental standards like NEQS and the requirements of donor agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc.*

A. NEQS are National Environmental Quality Standards that describe the maximum level of different hazardous materials that may be permitted to be released in the air, water and land by an organization. These are thus akin to product standards in a quality management system. ISO 14000 on the other hand is an environmental management system standard that requires the establishment of

a policy, objectives, plans, procedures, reviews and organizational structure that would ensure that the applicable regulatory standards are continuously complied with. If I have to apply ISO 14000 in my company I do not see why World Bank or ADB should have anything to do with it.

One of the problems with the Third world (which is also the cause of its remaining the Third world) is, 'paranoia' and to look with suspicion at every thing that is new

*Q. Do you think that the Pakistani industrial sector is in a position to make huge investments in the import of pollution control technologies as mandated by ISO-14000-1.*

A. If McDonald's and KFC et al' can be inticed to open branches in different cities of Pakistan, perhaps we can figure out how some others could run mutually beneficial profit sharing, recycling plants. Of course nothing comes free. Every one pays according to the level of hazardous materials that they discharge, hence a natural incentive to use better materials and processes. □

## Congratulations!

The Shehri management, Administration and General Body Members would like to extend their heartiest congratulations to Mr. Tasneem Ahmed Siddiqui, Director General Sindh Katchi Abadi's Authority (SKAA) on being awarded the prestigious international "Raman Magsaysay Award", for excellence in Government Service and the "Sitara-e-Imtiaz",

by the Government of Pakistan.

It is indeed a great credit to Mr. Siddiqui's committed and selfless devotion to his work, that amidst the chaos and gloom surrounding our government service sector, he stands out tall, as a beacon of hope and inspiration of a better future, to all sectors of our civil society. □







## PROFILE

# The Reformers - Citizens with a mission

*Shehri profiles a new Citizen Group on the scene which has started off with a very clear mission statement, focussing on creating a culture of good citizenship leading to good governance*

The Reformers, a non-political civic organization has been formed with the main objective of facilitating socio-economic reforms in the Pakistani society

The commitment is towards good citizenship leading to good governance. Mr. Nisar A. Memon, President of the Reformers, emphasizes this point by saying that "We should rededicate ourselves to the vision of Quaid-e-Azam, who wanted to see Pakistan as one of the greatest nations of the world".

The Reformers ideas began to take shape, when on October 11th 1998, a group of citizens decided to form such a citizen group and on December 25th 1998, they presented their vision of a truly welfare state to the citizens. On March 23rd 1999, the first Convention of the Reformers was held at its secretariat in Karachi.

In this convention, office bearers of the organization were selected by consensus and five priority areas for work were identified. These include.

- Education and Literacy
- Empowerment of Women
- Health
- Help Centers
- Enabling Environment

The reformers feel that given the right set of conditions, this nation can perform wonders. As Mr. Nazim F. Haji, the Secretary General of the organization puts it



*"Most of the 130 million people of Pakistan are honest, hardworking human beings and given the right environment they can perform to the highest standards of workmanship and professionalism".*

The Reformers hope not to duplicate the work of other NGO's already working in areas such as education and women's rights by aiming to work alongside them and supplementing their efforts through co-ordination.

To achieve this objective, both short term and long term plans and strategies have been prepared.

A positive aspect of the Reformers movement is that people with proven administrative, management and academic skills are heading various committees. Dr. Farid A. Malik, with a doctorate in Material Engineering heads the Education Committee. Ms. Farhana Mowjee, a business women and a qualified Chartered Accountant is incharge of the Committee on Empowerment of Women, while Dr. A. A. Shoro, Chairman of the Anatomy Department at the Aga Khan Hospital heads the Health Committee.

The formation of such citizen groups at a time, when institutions of the state are crumbling is a healthy sign as it shows that the citizens are not apathetic and are aware of the crisis of governance facing this country. In response, they are both willing and capable of coming up with strategies and actions for positive change.

As the noted scholar, the late Dr. Eqbal Ahmed said in his concluding remarks on the occasion of the first convention of the Reformers, "I am bullish on Pakistan and this meeting is one of the reasons of being bullish. What a country!" □

## GLOBAL NEWS

# Community based decentralized composting: Experience of Waste Concern in Dhaka

*Maqsood Sinha and Iftekhhar Enayetullah write from the city of Dhaka, about a pioneering project in Bangladesh which looks into the viability of organic resource recovery from municipal solid waste.*

**S**olid waste management has become a major concern in Dhaka city. At present it is estimated that approximately 3500 tons of solid waste is generated per day in Dhaka city. The physical composition of the solid waste shows that more than eighty percent (80%) of the waste is organic, which can be converted into compost, an organic fertilizer.

In an attempt to capture the value of organic portion of the waste and to create job opportunity for the urban poor and business opportunity for the local entrepreneurs, Waste Concern, a national NGO for the first time in Dhaka, initiated a decentralized community based organic resource recovery project with its own funds and support from a local financier.

The prime goal of this project was to explore the technical and commercial feasibility of labour intensive aerobic composting technique, which is based on waste reduction, separation of compostable, recyclable and other waste. This small scale composting project is in operation since January, 1995. This pilot composting plant is pioneering venture and first of its kind for an NGO in Bangladesh. For this composting project a small piece of vacant land of 1000 sq.m was given to Waste Concern, from the local Lions Club (Dhaka North).

### Objectives of the Project

- Improve the environment by promoting solid waste recycling activities in the country
- Create job opportunity for the neglected poor (especially women and children)
- Conduct research experiments on solid waste recycling and develop community, private sector and municipal partnerships to improve the environment.

### The Project: Community Based Decentralized Composting

At present, Waste Concern process three (3) tons of solid waste per day from which about 675 kg of compost is produced. 1000 households of Mirpur Section-2 of Dhaka city have been included under the composting project. Modified rickshaw vans were introduced by Waste Concern for house to house waste collection, and for this service, the households are paying between TK 10/- to 15/- per month.

The collected waste is separated and sorted in the composting plant located within the community and processed into compost

using aerobic techniques. The production cost of compost using the manual aerobic technique followed by Waste Concern is Tk. 1.65/kg. However this production cost does not include land rent or cost. The present market price of compost sold in Dhaka is between Tk. 10 to Tk. 18. Presently Waste Concern is selling its compost to a local fertilizer company at a price of Tk. 2.50/kg and there is huge demand for the compost from the compost marketing company.

### Lessons Learnt

- Community based composting integrated with house to house solid waste collection system can improve the overall environment of the neighborhoods.
- Community based house to



Separation at source



house solid waste collection system is financially sustainable, where there is willingness to pay by the community.

- This type of project has demonstration effect as well. Initially 300 households participated in the project, which has after three years of operation risen to 1000 households. Moreover, after seeing the benefits, more community groups in the adjoining neighbourhoods are organizing primary solid waste collection services.
- Community based composting is a financially profitable business, if land is available.
- Composting can turn waste into resource, which has environmental, economical and social benefits.

**Future**

Community based composting project, integrated with the door to door solid waste collection system can not only solve its disposal problems at source, but also yield environmental, economical, and social benefits both for the municipalities and the communities.

In order to replicate this type of project, the municipal authorities can enter into partnerships with concerned Private Sector/NGOs/CBOs to provide local level solid waste collection services integrated with resource recovery and recycling; Partnerships between municipalities and private sector can be formed by municipalities providing the land to the private sector interested to run compost plant commercially, and in return, the private sector can invest in the composting plant.

Waste Concern's experience in Dhaka shows that decentralized composting, as a microenterprise is a financially viable and sustainable business in addition to numerous intangible benefits.

The benefits associated with community based composting project as a solution to ever increasing volume of solid waste especially

organic waste in the low income countries, and at the same time as commercially viable project demonstrates the need for replicating this experience by the municipal authorities and small entrepreneur of low-income countries.

**Partnerships between municipalities and private sectors can be formed by municipalities providing the land to the private sector interested to run compost plant commercially, and in return, the private sector can invest in the composting plant**

**Conclusion**

This project demonstrates that small scale community based composting plant can be commercially viable and self sustainable project. Waste Concern with support from the RHUDO/USAID is now expanding its

capacity and in the next few years, with support from the UNDP and Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Government of Bangladesh, shall replicate this experience in three communities of Dhaka city in a participatory manner. □

**Blessed are the souls of those who bring happiness in others lives.**

The Management, Administration and General Body members of Shehri wish to extend their condolences to Mr. Humayun Qureshi, member of Shehri and his family, on the death by drowning of his son Omar Qureshi in Karachi on 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal (27th June 1999).



Omar died while trying to save the life of his young cousin. He was a student of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute, Topi, NWFP. A chess champion and BVS Scout, Omar deeply touched everyone he met. May his soul rest in peace. Amin.

Shehri, on behalf of the Qureshi family also wish to appeal to all picnickers to

Tall, handsome and ever smiling, 19 years old avoid swimming in the sea in the monsoon season.



## ACTIVISM

### Three cheers for Shehri members!

*Our members, apart from contributing to Shehri's efforts, are also not to be found wanting when it comes to personal enterprize and academic achievements*

WELL

DONE,

FELLOW

SHEHRI!

The "**Late Haji Haroon Isa Agaria School**", opened in Korangi # 6 by Shehri member Haji Abdul Sattar, in memory of his late father, provides free education services to the children of those area residents who cannot afford to pay for their childrens education. Course material, pens, pencils and other educational tools are also provided free of cost.

The school is managed by Haji Abdus

Sattar himself, with help from his equally devoted sister, Rehmat Bibi. Classes are regularly held in the evenings from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. for classes I to V.

Plans are also afoot to open more such model schools in other localities of the city. The main objective of this scheme, according to Haji Abdus Sattar is to rid the country of the twin menace of illtecracy and unemployment. A proud Shehri indeed! □



### Enter into the "World of a Whitefly"

**Syed Ghazanfar Ali**, an expert in plant protection and an active member of Shehri-CBE has recently edited a booklet "**The World of a Whitefly**", which looks in detail at some important aspects of pest control and management in crops. Assistance in this research work was provided by the United States Department of Agriculture, the University of Florida and the University of California. Shehri management wishes to congratulate its member on the completion of this valuable research project. □





## SHEHRI MEMBER PROFILE

Dear Member,

In order to expand its scope and range of activities for the public benefit, Shehri seeks greater involvement of its members and well wishers. For this purpose, we are developing a profile of our members to identify and document the possible modes and areas of work where the level of involvement could be enhanced. You are requested to fill this brief questionnaire and help in this effort.

Thank You.

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (Res): \_\_\_\_\_ (Off) : \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests/Hobbies : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Shehri-CBE is involved mostly in the following areas of work related to the field of urban environment.

- Housing/Land Use & Zoning Management
- Public Infrastructure/Utilities (e.g. waste management, transportation)
- Recreational Development
- Urban Pollution Control
- Institutional Strengthening



The modes of involvement we adopt to raise public awareness and information levels and simultaneously to seek solutions in collaboration with the various sectors of government and civil society are as follows:

- Advocacy
- Public Interest Litigation
- Research & Publications
- Seminars/Workshops
- Media/Publicity Campaigns

If you, as a member of Shehri-CBE and as a concerned citizen wish to work with us and engage more actively in our projects/programs and activities, than what manner of engagement do you select for yourself from among the following options and in which area. *(from the five areas of work mentioned above).*

**Mode of Involvement (✓)**

- Volunteer
- Professional Paid Services
- Cash Donations
- None of the above

If there is any other way in which you could facilitate our work please specify.

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**Preferred Area of Work:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Any Suggestions:**

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*Please fill this form and mail, e-mail or fax it to the Shehri Office for further action.  
Address your mail to Administrator, Shehri-CBE*



# SPOTLIGHT ON THE PRESS

## Housing Scheme PM should spare Safari Park land

The Star, Aug 8, '99

The government's decision to build PM Housing Scheme on the land allocated for Safari Park and Horticultural Society is not appropriate in the view of severe deficiency of open spaces in Karachi.

The scheme will cause further traffic jams on the already congested Rashid Minhas Road. Growing shortage of water, electricity and sewage facilities will be further worsen the civic condition in the area.

Moreover, the land is already under dispute, as the previous government allocated some land belonging to the Horticultural Society for the construction of a Botanical Garden.

SCOPE appealed to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and PMHA to spare this land from the construction of the housing scheme.

## CNG pumps fail to meet demand

Daily DAWN, Aug 7, '99

The number of vehicles using compressed natural gas (CNG) as fuel is gradually multiplying with swiftly soaring prices of petrol, making the existing 5 CNG stations in the megacity insufficient to meet the demand.

The CNG kit that keeps on moving upward in price has scaled to Rs. 23,000 despite an impression given by the government that the price would be reduced for its promotion in the country.

CNG fuel is cheap and environment-friendly due to which the government had planned to popularize it in the country but the sole importer of the kit here is exploiting his monopoly over the business.

## Garbage burning irks PECHS residents

Daily DAWN, Aug 2, '99

Karachi Administration Women Welfare Society has expressed concern over the burning of garbage along the site of Sunday Bazaar in PECHS Block 6.

It also drew the attention of the authorities towards garbage burning by the sanitary workers along the boundary of Karachi Administration Employees Cooperative Housing Society and at Mehmoodabad No. 6.

In a letter to the chief of the DMC East, the society said the menace of burning heaps of garbage daily was causing breathing problems for the people residing in the vicinity.



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

*SHEHRI invites the residents of the city to share with us, their concerns, on issues which are adversely affecting their neighbourhood's environment. Please write to us, preferably with a supporting photograph, so that efforts are made and solutions sought - Ed*

# Rectify the wrong, before its too late!

In Block - 4, of Kehkashan, Scheme 5, a school, styled as the "Millennium" and a montessori/kindergarten styled as "Alexandra's Playhouse" has been opened in House No. 37-F.

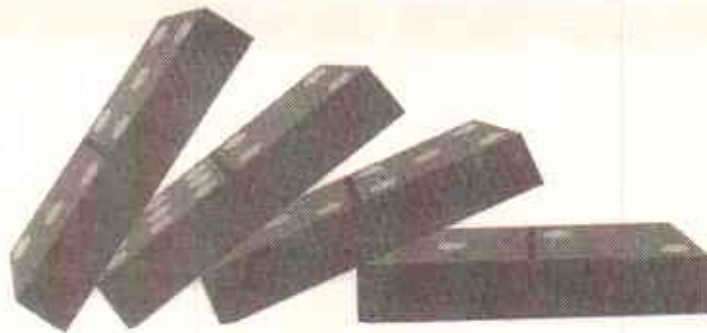
The use of residential plots, in Block 4, Clifton for commercial purposes, such as a private school is a clear infringement of the terms of the lease and contrary to KDA policies and the policies of the Clifton Cantonment Board.

The Clifton Cantonment Board should serve immediate notice on the owner to rectify the irregularity and have the school move out.

The irregular proliferation of schools would mean more intensive use of municipal facilities, for which the residential areas are not designed and means degradation of quality of life for the residents of the area. The school in question has been opened in a duplex, fronting a narrow road.

This would lead to traffic congestion, particularly at school opening and closing time, making movement of residents in the area, extremely inconvenient, if not impossible.

The laxity in permitting new schools in the area in an irregular manner would only tempt non resident owners to let out houses at high rent and thus accelerate the process of commercialisation, to the detriment of the environment of legitimate residents.



Proper action now will avoid a domino effect

In view of the illegality involved, the inconvenience to legitimate residents and others, in infringement of the rights to proper living conditions, we would request Clifton Cantonment Board to take immediate action to stop the irregular opening of the school. □

*(Residents of Block 4,  
Kehkashan, Scheme # 5,  
Clifton, Karachi)*





## JUNIOR SHEHRI

### The Waiting Game

*Ayesha Mangel lets off her anger against the injustice and misgovernance plaguing all sectors of our society. A piece written from the heart.*

In this land of the pure, our basic rights like water, leave alone clean water, and electricity, essential for life are denied to us.

Being stuffed closely into suffocating apartments, where there is no air, we cook, bathe and read all day, hoping and praying for the power to stay on, for when the power bids farewell, it doesn't come back for hours. When finally the power is restored, its only there to remind us that it does exist!! After maybe an hour of frustrating bout of fluctuations, lo and behold, It's gone again. This agonising drill even continues during night time. We melt like butter in the heat. Between all this, we the children, sit in our exams, sweating and puffing due to lack of ventilation, and guess what? in the absence of the ever elusive electricity! These are the summer days and nights of Karachi.

Imagine those men who work like madmen all day long, only to arrive at home to a very sizzling welcome.

The water is even worse. Usually there is no water. When water is sometimes supplied, its so little. Our taps are all

rusted because they are hardly ever used! So our water problem is answered when we turn to water tankers. We call them in the morning. They arrive at night.

What are we youngsters called, "Mulk Ka Sarmaya"? What Sarmaya? I feel humiliated.

We may have blasted *Shaheen's* and *Ghori's* and broken the back of the Chagai mountains with our "Atom i Quwat", yet we wait for water, we wait for power, we wait for good education. But we are better off than many others. Those that have no water, no power, no education at all. They, infact, are the majority!

Maybe, my grand children will also join in the wait. Its just a hope that is living in my heart that things might get better, though logic tell me that nothing will ever get better. However, if we give up hope, all is lost. Allah has asked us to hope and keep faith in Him. That is what I am going to do. So, help me God. □

*(Ayesha Mangel is a student)*



## This World ... !

This world is a bed of roses.  
Oh, but that were true!  
But its true as true can be,  
Though its not known by you.

So read on dear reader,  
And as a rose has a thorn,  
Let me this bequeath you,  
And let the knowledge dawn.

That thorns have their place  
Beside the roses; as well  
As roses have their place  
Beside the thorns;  
be it Heaven, Earth or Hell.

Thus the food of life,  
Be it sweet, sour or bitter,  
Should be swallowed patiently  
Without complaints from the eater.

So happiness and  
misery go hand in hand,  
And hand in hand,  
the thorns and roses,  
Thus, that the world is a  
bed of roses,  
Is as true a statement as it poses.

**- Kiran Bashir Ahmed**



## ASK SHEHRI

*Most residents when faced with any civic problem do not know which person or organization to contact in order to solve their problem. In this column we invite the readers to share their worries with us and seek our help, which is always forthcoming - Ed.*

**Q.** Where is the Kirthar National Park located?  
*Sania Khalid, Clifton, Karachi.*

**A.** The Kirthar National Park is a protected area (included in the United Nations listing of National Parks) and is located in the the province of Sindh, about 80 km north of Karachi, along the Super Highway.

**Q.** How can I contact the "KBCA Oversee Committee" Secretariat?  
*Hasan Mirza, Saddar, Karachi*

**A.** The "KBCA Oversee Committee" secretariat is housed in the KBCA Office, (Near Civic, Centre, Karachi)  
*Phone: 4947806 Fax: 4931824*

**Q.** How many housing units are being covered the "Private Sector Solid Waste Management Project" in Karachi?

*Shahid Butt, Lahore, Cantt.*

**A.** A total of 72,000 housing units. 25000 in F. B. Area and 4700 in the North Karachi locality of Karachi.

## Shehri needs volun-

The various projects of Shehri are managed by its following six sub-committees:

- Anti Pollution
- Media & Outreach (Newsletters)
- Legal (Illegal Buildings)
- Conservation & Heritage (Old Buildings)
- Parks & Recreation Fund Raiser

Any person who wishes to help out in Shehri's ongoing and planned projects (cash / kind) should visit the Shehri Office for further information or contact the Shehri Secretariat through phone, fax or e-mail)

### JOIN SHEHRI TO CREATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

If you wish to join shehri please send this card to

SHEHRI Citizens for a Better Environment.  
206-G, Block 2, P.E.C.H.S.,  
Karachi-75400, Pakistan.  
Tel / Fax : 453-0646

With a cross cheque of Rs. 300/- (Annual Membership Fee) in the name of Shehri-CBE with passport size photograph

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. (Off) : \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. (Res) : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

## SHEHRI MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your membership for 1999! Join Shehri and do your bit as a good citizen to make this city a clean, healthy and environmentally friendly place to live in!



## ADVOCACY

# Demanding better governance: Human Rights Case 9-K

*The Karachi Administration Women Welfare Society (KAWWS), in a landmark public interest litigation raises some extremely pertinent issues related to the sector of public infrastructure and utilities development and management and offers practical guidelines for positive change.*

Issues such as defective sewer/drainage systems, mismanagement of parks and open spaces and violations of zoning laws and regulations are matters which adversely effect more or less all parts of the city. Nevertheless, few residents or citizen groups have bothered to take matters farther than just lodging complaints with their area offices of the concerned agencies.

However, the Karachi Administration Women Welfare Society (KAWWS), a citizen group operating in the Karachi Administration Employees Co-operative Housing Society (KAECHS) decided to test the limits of our judicial and administrative systems, when in February 1992, they filed a petition before the Supreme Court of Pakistan under *Public Interest Litigation* regarding some issues of civic concern in their locality.

As a result, the Supreme Court appointed a Commission to look into the matter and the concerned agencies i.e. KMC and KW & SB tried to rectify some of the problems identified by the petitioner and installed and constructed some new sewerage / drainage systems. However, to this date, the work is incomplete.

Recently, after much delay, the petition came up for hearing again and the Court asked the petitioner to prepare a status report on the

civic conditions in KAECHS with suggested solutions.

The report subsequently prepared by KAWWS, highlights the following areas of concerns and offers concrete suggestions.

### Storm Water Drains

In the report, KAWWS identifies a very important civic problem of the city when it states that nearly one third of the city's effluent flows through storm water drains of the city while trunk sewers laid parallel or near these drains remain empty. There is also a jurisdictional dispute on these drains between KMC and DMC's. Apart from sewage, these drains also provide a convenient dumping site for the city garbage by all and sundry.

KAWWS suggests that to tackle this problem, the first thing what needs to be done is that all sewer connections opening into these drains be disconnected and instead connected with the existing trunk sewers. Also, the jurisdictional dispute be resolved immediately, which severely hampers maintenance work.

These drains also need to be saved

from another danger, and that is encroachment of the drains for commercial purposes by covering them and opening up shops etc. This could be done by prohibiting construction within 10ft on each side of the drains which would also facilitate desilting operations.

Dumping of garbage should also be prohibited and a mechanism be developed whereby residents consent be required upon satisfactory completion of any kind of work.

**Recently, after much delay, the petition came up for hearing again and the Court asked the petitioner to prepare a status report on the civic conditions in KAECHS with suggested solutions**

### Cutting and Restoration of Main Road

In early 1998, KW & SB had dug up one side of the dual carriage Khawja Moinuddin Chisty Road to place a 1600 ft sewer. This excavation was further extended. These roads have not been relaid.

DMC-South does not have any funds to complete the job and demands road cutting charges from KW&SB which responds by stating that no such mechanism exists and infact KMC owes KW & SB money in several heads of expenses. Various efforts to resolve this issue have failed to yield any results.



KAWWS suggests adoption of a long term approach to resolve this and other related issues which require inter-agency co-ordination, particularly in financial matters. It also proposes a measure of financial independence for the DMC's.

Also proposed is the setting up of a Committee headed by Secretary Finance (GOS) to resolve the issue and also the establishment of a "Planning and Co-ordination Committee", to look into various development issues of the entire area under sub-division Mehmoodabad

rotting in valve pits.

Also due to corruption, water supply is so controlled that artificial water scarcity is made in certain areas, such as in blocks 2, 4, 7 and 9 where the consumers are forced to purchase water, every second day. Valve-men have to be paid to ensure regular water supply. On the other hand, no action is taken against residents who regularly waste water.

KAWWS rightly asks for the preparation of proper water sup-

ply construction/maintenance work.s

### Violations of Housing and Town Planning regulations / Break-down in Services.

The report states that various kinds of zoning violations are taking place in the locality. All these violations are having extremely adverse impacts on the civic infrastructure and utilities system with more frequent cases of break-downs. An immediate end to such activities is demanded.



of District South. The Committee to have representation from local residents, apart from all the concerned government agencies. KAWWS also demands transparency in the use of funds and public access to the fund management details of civic agencies.

### Water Pollution and Inequitable Distribution

It is pointed out in the report that the major reason for contamination of drinking water is due to mixing with sewage water owing to cross connections. Also, valves and pipes leak regularly and dead animals such as rodents were found

ply maps and regular maintenance and rehabilitation of the system. It also suggests that the present valve-men/fitters be transferred, as they have developed vested interests and are involved in corruption.

Also demanded is action against residents who waste water (overflow in tanks). Regular water sampling and testing is also part of the package of suggestions.

### Sewer System

KAWWS identifies various defects in the sewer system of the locality, and asks for a time frame to be fixed for completion of related

The report also addresses other issues such as garbage disposal, poor maintenance of parks etc. It is an extremely comprehensive document, meticulously detailed with specified information on a variety of issues. Above all, it comes up with various practical solutions and suggestions relating to various administrative, management, financial and technical factors associated with the issue of development and maintenance of public infrastructure and utilities, in our particular context. They offer much food for thought for our urban managers in their efforts to better prioritize and manage their future plans and actions. □

## A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

Shehri wishes to acknowledge the positive response extended by Mr. Ardeshir Cowasjee, Mr. Furrokh-Captain, Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim and Messrs Lasmo Oil (Pvt) Ltd. to our newly initiated "Shehri Corporate Citizen", and "Shehri Benefactor" schemes.