



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

January - April, 2001 Vol. 11/No. 1

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SAY 'NO' TO GUNS!!

As the government launches its Arms Control 2001 Campaign, **Roland deSouza** identifies the causes which have led to the proliferation of illicit firearms in Karachi, adversely impacting on the quality of life of the citizens and puts forward some suggestions for improving the situation.

Pakistan does not need external enemies: we are doing a fairly good job of slowly destroying ourselves. Over the past 54 years, a culture of violence has insidiously pervaded the fabric of society, especially in "the City of the Quaid", to the point where Karachites have forgotten that we once used to live in peace and tranquility.

The city has been rent with increasing sectarian, ethnic, and crime problems, resulting in blood baths and significant loss of human lives. VIPs, sardars, waderas, politicians and feudals consider it their prerogative to maintain heavily armed escorts, political workers brandish weapons to intimidate everyone, and private security armed-guard business has proliferated.



Guns are not welcome! The message should go loud and clear

Various dogmatic and obscurantist elements add to the chaos and confusion by interpreting religion and culture as allowing and encouraging the maintenance of weapons. The teachings of Islam, like those of all religions, promote peace and brotherhood and its guidelines on the subject are quite clear (see box).

Shehri's proposals for the establishment of a Gun-Free Environment

- The members of the police or any other law enforcement authority, carrying unconcealed weapons, must do so only whilst in uniform and having requisite identification.
- Guns must not be permitted to be carried in a manner whereby the nozzle points at any person, to avoid accidental injuries / nozzles should ideally be pointed skywards.
- Stringent criteria for issuance of licenses be laid down and enforced without exception and not merely on the recommendation of any MPA, MNA or Senator.
- Computerized record with complete particulars of all new licenses should be maintained forthwith and records in respect of licenses issued previously must be computerized within three months. Such records should be available with the Federation and each Province and continuously updated and exchanged between them.

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Contributions are welcome
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.

Composed by :
SHAH GRAPHICS
Tel : 62 88 22

Printed by :
Samina Printers
Tel : 62 88 22

For the printing of this newsletter
SHEHRI-CBE
acknowledges the support of
The Friedrich-Naumann
Foundation

SHEHRI-CBE

acknowledges the support of
The Friedrich-Naumann
Foundation

Member of
IUCN
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EDITORIAL

**Karachi:
A new beginning?**

As the nazims, naib nazims, councillors, ECO's, DCO's etc. settle in their respective seats and offices, one wonders whether they have even begun to realize the enormity of the challenge they are faced with. The plight and anguish of today's Karachi is heart-breaking. The crumbling city infrastructure whether it be roads, water supply, sewerage, power supply or waste disposal, offers a shameful and pathetic testimony to the criminal neglect shown towards the genuine needs of this city by all those who have ruled over its destiny. Democracy, autocracy, bureaucracy, whatever the creed they may have adhered to, none can escape the blame.

For a city which generates most of the country's revenue, this state of abject misery cannot possibly be explained by logic and reason. If a city, which in this age of globalization has the potential of becoming the industrial and commercial hub of not just the country but of the entire region attracting much needed foreign investment and enterprise can instead shamefully boast of crime being its most profitable enterprise, than what logic can explain this dichotomy!

Our planners have over the years shown a bankruptcy of mind and reason which again fails to withstand the test of logic. Just take one exam-

ple. Fifty years down the road and after countless World Bank, Asian Development Bank, United Nations etc. millions have gone down the proverbial drain, we still have not decided how to start tackling our transport problems! Do we need more roads, more flyovers, more rail transit, more expressways, (did anyone mention the word, mass transit!!) more buses (!) are questions which it would seem have tested and tormented to the hilt, the rather limited capacities of clear headed thought vested with our illustrious city planners and managers, past and present, as the solutions still elude them, contributing to the endless miseries and misfortunes of the common Karachite.

The list of problems defying the human capacity to deduce a reasoned analysis and judgement as to the causes of the melody is endless. Is it corruption? is it incompetence? is it a sadistic desire to inflict pain and misery? is it all of these combined? who knows? So the challenges facing the newly elected and appointed city officials are manifold. Set a vision for the city, give it a direction, fight corruption, enhance efficiency, but above all, it would be their resolve, commitment and will to succeed and prosper for the greater good of the city and not for themselves, which will provide a befitting ending to this newly enacted saga. □



Experiences of other countries

The subject matter of gun-control is very controversial in the USA, where *more citizens die in handgun fire in just two days than in one year in Canada, Great Britain, Japan, Sweden, and Australia combined.* While the pro-gun lobby's stand is based on its particular interpretation of the *Second Amendment* of the US Constitution, the lobby is not supported in their view by many concerned citizens, including the powerful American Civil Liberties Union. We have all read of the famous *Million Mom March* in Washington DC last year where 750,000 mothers of America protested against the mushrooming of guns: the movement resulted in the establishment of 235 chapters of concerned mothers in 46 states.

Still, in the USA and other western nations, there are strict guidelines on when a low-enforcement official (*who is well trained in the use and safety of firearms*) may draw his gun and where he will try to shoot/disable a criminal. Every incident involving the use of firearms by a police officer is subject to a detailed inquiry and justification procedure.

Contrast this with the numerous *police encounters* we read about in the newspapers every now and then.

Some other international efforts in the field of gun-control include:

- In August 1998, thirty-three NGOs from 18 countries formed the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA).
- The 1st UN Conference on the *Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its*

Shehri Proposals

Cont. from Page 1

- Confiscated illegal weapons must only be utilized by law enforcement agencies or destroyed.
- No person should be issued a licence unless it has been established that such person can wield the gun in respect whereof the licence is sought.
- Other than the law enforcement agencies the carrying of prohibited weapons, in particular the Kalashnikov (AK 47) be banned.
- No person who has been convicted of any offense or against whom a criminal case is pending should be granted a licence. Similarly, no such person should have the power to recommend the issuance of a licence.
- Government should make and implement policies for gradual withdrawal of all guns from society in a systematic and phased manner.
- Any person who ensures the seizure of weapons should be rewarded at least 25% of the market value of such seized weapon.
- Gun manufacturers operating in Darra area should be inducted to manufacture weapons for armed forces and sales by them to the public should be stopped.

WHAT DOES ISLAM TEACH?

Islam has sanctified life, forbids its taking and prescribes damnation for transgressor. The Holy Quran and Hadith confirm that in Islam life is sacred and killing is an unforgivable sin.

"Whosoever killeth a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all humanity, and who so saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all humanity". (Surah al-Maidah, verse 32)

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

"A Believer remains within the scope of his religion as long as he does not kill anyone unlawfully" (Reported by Al-Bukhari)

"Do not become unbelievers after I pass away, killing one another". (Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim)



Aspects was held in Washington DC last month (<http://www.un.org/Depts/dda/CA/B/smallarms/>).

- At that time, Amnesty International published a report *Human Rights abuses with Small Arms* to show that government and opposition groups in at least a hundred countries are using small arms in the violent abuse of human rights.
- The UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, wrote an article *Small arms, big problems* in the International Herald Tribune of 10 July 2000.

In 1999, at the invitation of the CPLC, a UNDP-sponsored mission from Colombia (*another country that has experienced gun-related violence*), came to Karachi to study the situation. It met with government officials, law-enforcement agencies, intelligence bureaus, political parties, civil society organizations, NGOs, newspapers and journalists, businessmen and trade bodies, transporters, etc. The whole report identifies some of the root causes of the problems and advocates approaches to their solutions.

"The causes of violence in Karachi range from the mere traditional, such as those as a result of the peculiarities of lop-sided urban development, the fight for turf by different mafias and vested interests, and the struggle over Karachi's particular demographic and political development."

Causes of Violence
 Extract from "*Understanding Karachi: Planning & Reform for the Future*" by Arif Hasan

(see box).

Government De-weaponization Campaigns

A number of half-hearted efforts have been made by the government over recent years to remove guns from the hands of the citizens, but without significant success. The present campaign *Arms Control 2001* likewise leaves much to be desired.

A member of the Task Force to recommend strategies for *Arms Control 2001*, the CPLC Chief, who is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Interior, has stated that the final shape of the proposal lacks the depth of the recommendations made by the *Task Force*. He felt that simple questions were still left unanswered, including:

- *Why should I bother to come forward and surrender a weapon?*
- *What do I get by exposing myself?*
- *What is so different about this plan that earlier initiatives did not have, yet they failed?*

The CPLC Chief had also submitted a set of recommended incentives, but these have not been adopted so far.

"To fight back, we need better laws and more effective regulations. States have established international norms in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation, and banned chemical and biological weapons and anti-personnel land-mines. Yet there is no such framework of binding norms and standards to eliminate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons."

**Secretary General
 Mr. Kofi Annan
 on Small Arms**

**United Nations
 Conference on the Illicit
 Trade in Small Arms and
 Light Weapons in all its
 Aspects, New York,
 9-20 July, 2001.**

Shehri – CBE's involvement

Although slightly tangential to the organization's task in working to preserve the natural and built environment, Shehri has become more and more concerned about the deteriorating milieu of violence in Karachi, and has joined hands with other NGOs (including CPLC and HRCP) to protest against the proliferation of firearms. In 1994, Shehri, along with many other NGOs, tried to have the Supreme Court institute a *suomoto* Human Rights Case under Article

184 (3) of the Constitution.

Shehri has jointly organized a number of events in their *Say No to Guns* campaign:

- Public Awareness Seminar in February 1998
 Entitled *Gun Free Environment - a pre-requisite for expounding Liberal Values*, it dealt with the areas of freedom of expression, sectarianism, ethnic strife, Islamic tolerance, private guards / intimidation, value of life, etc.
- Launching Ceremony in September 1998, in collaboration with CPLC and HRCP, the public was invited to the Karachi Press Club for the symbolic burning of guns and distribution of publicity materials, including posters and car-stickers.



ROUTE MAP OF KARACHI

Proliferation of violence & illicit firearms

YEAR	POPULATION	E V E N T S
1947 - 60	0.5 - 2 million	Major events in this period pertain to student agitation (1954-55 & 1957) and sectarian tension during Moharram. Karachi underworld limited to local toughs, mostly thriving on black marketing of cinema tickets, illicit liquor, gambling and prostitution. Weapons limited to knife, khurdum and country made revolvers/pistols. Firing incidents were considered unusual. Administration had to resort to firing on only half a dozen occasions to break up mobs/processions. Tear gas and lathi-charge considered serious administrative actions.
1960 - 65	2 - 2.6 million	Induction of migrant labour from upcountry in the city workforce in transport, textile and construction industry. Gradual changing of city culture and emergence of new underworld mafia. 1965 pro-Ayub Khan procession through Liaquatabad resorted to heavy firing and arson resulting in burning of over 1000 hutments at Gujur Nala.
1965 - 71	2.6 - 3.5 million	Control of trade unions, transport sectors passes on to the Pathans.
1971 - 77	3.5 - 4.5 million	Massive agitation on Language Bill 1972. Curfew imposed but agitation mostly confined to heavy stoning, arson and attack on state property.
1977 - 81	4.5 - 5.5 million	Massive PNA agitation against PPP government but firearms generally not used or displayed. Major instance of use of firearms exhibited by supporters of PNA during polling in districts South and West.
1981 - 85	5.5 - 6.6 million	Alleged State support to IJI, who openly displayed arms in Karachi University to intimidate rival student groups. Shia agitation against Sharia Laws. Sunni back lash mostly through attacks on Imam Bargahs and display of weapons at will.
1985 - 93	6.6 - 8.2 million	Watershed period, changing city scene. Bushra Zaidi case. Mobs attack Pathan owned transport. Pathan owners carry firearms for protection. Emergence of MQM. Urdu speaking mobs attacking Pathans with home-made bombs in Organi (1986). Public pressure against encroachments (mostly Northern/Afghan immigrants) Sohrab Goth ejection and massive Pathan reaction in Aligarh Colony, Orangi. Heavy use of firearms by Pathan mobs (1987). Altaf Hussain responds with appeals to Mohajirs to "sell your TVs/VCRs and buy firearms" (March 1988). Total failure of state agencies to protect communities (1985-88). Heavy weaponization of city. Karachi becomes market for gun runners supplying arms to all sides.
1993 - 96	8.2 - 9 million	State responds by crushing heavily and lightly armed MQM cadres. Post-85 situation temporarily saw reduction of the sectarian divide after the rise of MQM. Subsequent post-90 trend reflects terrorist attacks based on targeted killings by competing sectarian organizations. There appears to be a curious linkage and overlap between ethnic, sectarian and underground "mafia" organizations. Each seems to thrive on the other for supply of weapons and political support. Major cause of sectarian violence emanates on the issue of control of mosques, which provide jobs and commercial property (adjacent shops).
1993 - 99	9 - 10 million	Resurgence of MQM through political process. Arms available but less frequently displayed.
1999 - 01	10 - 10.7 million	Situation remains same. Political activists mostly underground but availability of arms unimpaired.



The "Quality of Life" in Karachi?

The residents of Karachi, both rich and poor, have over the years become hardened to the reporting of killings in the city. The peaceful gun-free environment of the 60s and 70s is fading from memory, and most of us are sadly coming to accept the bloody and violent present as our lot in life.

Karachi is the city that has witnessed the killings of a former Prime Minister's brother, Murtaza Bhutto, ex-Governor Hakeem Said, KESC MD Shahid Hamid, Maulana Ludhianvi, Maulana Quadri, PSO MD Shaukat R. Mirza, and numerous other high profile victims. Shehri's founder-chairman, Navaid Husain, was shot in 1997 in his office but has fortunately survived.

In the cave man days, each person protected himself, and his near and dear ones and their possessions. He progressively employed clubs, knives, and spear. With the development of communities, man made a *social contract* with society and delegated to society the enforcement and protection of a number of his basic rights. Among these were his right to security and right to life (also enshrined in Articles 4 and 9 of the Constitution of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan). In return, he undertook to carry out his duties as a citizen and pay his taxes.

But the state in Pakistan, especially in Karachi, is renegeing on this *contract*. It seems to be apathetic in providing effective security for the common citizen, irrespective of race, religion, caste, sex, residence or place of birth. Increasing dacoities, car-jacking, kidnappings, sectarian strife, ethnic mayhem, killings and violent crime, has eroded confidence in the law-enforcement ability of the state

and has lowered the quality of life for all, rich and poor. Consequently, more and more citizens are opting to protect themselves and their families as best they can: they are arming themselves, they are hiring security guards, they are erecting gates and barriers around their residential areas, or they are moving away from the city.

What of the future?

Can any city and country make significant progress under these circumstances? The last decade has

maintain law and order. Shehri's experience with law-enforcement in Karachi and implementation of rules and regulations in the government ministries, civil administration, police, and statutory bodies (like KDA, KBCA, KMC, KWSB, etc) leads us to believe that most of these exercises are elaborate *noora-kushti's*. Many officials are pretending to do their jobs, while all the time protecting themselves and the criminals with whom they collaborate. This is done either out of fear or for pecuniary/political gain.

"Sustainable Peace in Karachi" Report of the Colombian Mission, February 1999, on Citizen's Rights and Security

On the basis to the conditions described and the strategy proposed, four actions were recommended as high leverage entry points for sustainable peace

- Police reforms by organizing the **Karachi Metropolitan Police Force (KMPF)** as an entry point for the reconstruction of the public sector.
- The improvement of metropolitan living conditions through **community - based development**, as a high-leverage entry point for the strengthening of civil society.
- **A National Alliance Against Crime**, prioritizing arms and drugs as a high-leverage entry points against violence, organized crime, common crime, illicit enrichment, and money laundering, accompanied by the replication of the Citizen-Police Liaison Committee in other Pakistani cities to mobilize community support.
- **An exit Strategy Toward Decentralized Democratic Governance**, from the current state of exception in Karachi and the rest of Sindh that provides incentives for political and social solutions to conflicts through the strengthening of local governing institutions. □

witnessed the relocation of businessmen in large numbers to the north of Pakistan. Professionals of a particular persecuted sect are moving to the West. Numerous able and talented citizens are migrating or seeking asylum abroad.

As recognized in the early days of Pakistan by the Quaid-e-Azam, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the first responsibility of government is to

Why would any entrepreneur, local or foreign, wish to sink his money into a society where the basic norms of justice and order are missing? A major incentive to investors that can be provided by the powers that be and the economic development gurus of this country is peace and freedom from terror. □

(Roland deSouza is Member, Managing Committee, Shehri-CBE)

SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

11th Annual General Meeting of Shehri-CBE

(Saturday, April 21, 2001, Shehri-CBE Office, Karachi)

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Shehri was held on Saturday April 21, 2001, at 206-G, Block II, PECHS, Karachi from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The following Managing Committee members were present;

Qazi Faez Isa	Chairperson
Mrs. Victoria de'Souza	Vice Chairperson
Mrs. Amber Alibhai	General Secretary
Mr. Khatib Ahmed	Treasurer
Mr. Navaid Husain	M. C. Member
Mr. Raza Ali Gardezi	M. C. Member
Mr. Hanif Sattar	M. C. Member



The Shehri Management

The following General Body Members were present.

Mr. Muslehuddin	Mrs. Sareena Isa
Mr. Derrick Dean	Ms. Sumreen Mirza
Mr. Farooq Fazal	Mr. Rizwan Abdullah
Mr. Mohammad Ali Rasheed	Dr. Khairvee
Mr. Roland deSouza	Mrs. Bernadette Dean

Agenda

- i. To confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
- ii. To adopt the General Secretary's report of Shehri's activities, for the year 2000.
- iii. To adopt the audited statement of Shehri's account for the year ended December 31, 2000.
- iv. To appoint and fix remuneration of auditors for the year 2001.
- v. To announce the names of the elected Managing

- Committee Members for period 2001-2002.
- vi. Any other business with the permission of the chair.

The meeting was commenced by the Chairperson, Qazi Faez Isa.

The first item of business was the approval of the minutes from the 10th Annual General Meeting. This motion was proposed by Mrs. Sareena Isa and seconded by Mr. M. Ali Rasheed and the minutes of the meeting were confirmed. The following comments were volunteered after the review of activities:

- Roland deSouza suggested that Shehri should narrow its focus and only do a few activities very well, thereby concentrating its limited financial and human resources on the projects that have the greatest chance of success. He suggested a visit to the Wetland Center for the education/awareness of Shehri members and their families.
- Mr. Roland suggested that every member should try and bring at least five members with him for the AGM, from the General Body Members, to enhance the number of participants. Mr. Muslehuddin requested for the membership mailing list, so that he can mark all those residing in his locality and thus assist in bringing at least 10 members for the next annual general meeting.
- The second item of business was the review of the year 2000 activities. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Victoria deSouza reported that Shehri has been asked to intervene in the issue of mangroves destruction in Mai Kolachi.

General Secretary reported on the development of the Shehri Park, and requested the members to participate in its maintenance and development according to their convenience.

Further a summary of workshops/seminars organized by Shehri during the year 2000 was read out. The General Secretary informed the members about Mr. Farhan Anwar's visit to the USA, upon invitation from the United States Consulate for participation in

the US State Department's International Visitors Programme. This was with regard to the *Devolution of Power Plan*. From there Mr. Anwar will be visiting Britain to attend the South Asian Forum *South Asia in the Age of Globalization* organized by Wilton Park in collaboration with the European Union and Foreign & Commonwealth Office, UK. Annual Activity Report was proposed by Member Derrick Dean and seconded by Mr. Navaid Husain, the report was adopted.

The third item of business was the review of audited accounts, for the year 2000, which were audited by Ovais Haider Zaman, Chartered Accountants.

Khatib Ahmed gave a summary of Shehri's accounts. Amber Ali Bhai mentioned that for the year 2001, it was to be expected of each managing committee member, to bring in at least Rs. 100,000/- in donations. The following questions were posed from the audience:

- Mr. Rizwan suggested that the accounts should be audited and presented much earlier. The managing committee responded by saying that the accountants were not available before April due to Ramzan holiday season, New Year, Eid-ul-Azha and Muharram, but promised to make every effort to book the same auditors as early as possible for the year 2001 audit.
- Clarification of membership fees generated for the year 2000 was requested. The accounts showed that Rs. 17,100/- were received in membership renewal and new membership. At Rs. 300. per annum, this indicates that for the year 2000 Shehri had only



The General Body Members

47 paid members! Suggestions were made to increase membership and payment such as: letter writing, phone calls, membership drive, creating policy that requires MC members to involve 10 new members, and promoting life membership at Rs. 6,000 @ Rs. 300 for 20 years. The managing committee responded by saying that membership drives proved to be more costly than the success/profits generated by them as postage and phone calls taxes Shehri's financial and human resources. Navaid Husain, Amber Ali bhai, and Qazi Faez Isa decided to become life member.

- Mr. Mohammad Ali Rasheed asked why it is not possible to invest some of Shehri's money in a high-risk portfolio and run expenditures from the interest of the account. Sumreen Mirza questioned whether such a venture would violate Shehri's non-profit status. The managing committee responded by saying that Shehri probably does not at the moment have enough money in its accounts to invest. If enough life members were made perhaps that money could be invested as suggested. The audited accounts were proposed by Mr. Hanif Sattar, seconded by Mr. Farooq Fazal the audited

accounts were adopted.

The fourth item of business was the appointment of, and to fix remuneration of the auditors for the year 2001. It was decided that M/s. Ovais Haider Zaman Chartered Accounts will be retained as auditors for the year 2001 and their remuneration will be Rs. 5000/-. This was proposed by Mr. Rizwan Abdullah, seconded by Raza Ali Gardezi, for adoption.

The fifth item of business was the announcement of candidates and voting for vacant positions. Election Commissioner Sarwar Khalid announced that there were a lot of nominations that could not be considered because the person was not a paid Shehri member at the time of nomination. Therefore, these nominations were rejected.

The following persons won the election without contest: Chairperson; Khatib Ahmed, Vice Chairperson; Dr. Syed Raza Ali Gardezi, General Secretary; Amber Ali Bhai, MC Members; Navaid Husain, Roland deSouza and Qazi Faez Isa. The position of treasurer was open for which Farooq Fazal was nominated by Mrs. deSouza and Seconded by Amber Ali bhai.

Meeting was concluded by a vote of thanks from the outgoing Chairperson, Qazi Faez Isa. □

Shehri workshop: Revitalization of Membership

(Saturday, June 19th 2001, Hotel Marriott, Karachi)

Aims & Objectives:

1. Invite membership participation.
2. To highlight the tasks of sub-committees of Shehri.
3. To call for suggestions and views from members re. strengthening performance, to provide a better social, political and legal environment.
4. To enhance Shehri Membership

The workshop proceedings started with an introduction by the General Secretary Mrs. Amber Alibhai, welcoming the members who participated. All those present, took active part in the discussions that followed.

Members of the Managing Committee of Shehri, gave the background experience of Shehri's efforts towards environmental work in different fields. After every presentation, the member participants were invited to give suggestions and also give their opinions with regard to their participation in the future activities and projects of Shehri.

The names of members/project presentation were as follows:

Mr. Khatib Ahmed
Enhance Shehri Membership

Mr. Faez Isa
Rights of a Citizen
Mrs. Amber Alibhai
Citizens Help Desk

Dr. Raza Ali Gardezi
Public Interest Litigation



(L - R) Qazi Faez Isa, Amber Ali Bhai

Mr. Imran Javed
Shehri Park

Mrs. Mansoor
Fund Raising

Mr. Isa spoke on Gun Free Society Campaign, which Shehri launched in 1998, and stressed the need for members to work on this issue and create awareness among the public

and in educational institutions against the use of guns, and work for a peaceful social environment. This call received a positive response from members. Publicity material viz. gun free stickers/pamphlets were provided to members to continue this task forward.

Dr. Raza Gardezi spoke on Public

Litigation that Shehri has filed in Courts against illegal/unauthorized construction, misuse of public amenity plots and against encroachments. Members were invited to take part in any litigation by providing their time and resources as Shehri is short of man power.

Imran Javed gave information and update on Shehri Park at St. 12, Block III, Clifton. Members were requested to collect donations, give their expertise in the development work on the park which has been leased for a further period of three years to Shehri-CBE. Mr. Javed related his experience with the residents and KMC, in developing the park, and gave the present status of the same, inviting donations and assistance from the members and from multi-nationals.



Khatib Ahmed

Dr. S. Raza Ali Gardezi



Shehri Members

Last topic on the agenda was fund raising, which was highlighted and names of donors and permanent supporters were announced. The members were briefed on the monthly expenses of Shehri which were Rs. 45,000/- and collection of the amount was not easy. The members were called to give assistance in whatever manner suitable for the above cause.

The members were interested in working with Shehri and the reason for their non-participation was partly due to lack of communication with Shehri. This fact was noted and Mrs. Mansoor was

assigned the task of writing letters to all members who were present and keeping them informed about the latest actions adopted by Shehri. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks and refreshments were served.

The following members have opted for working with Shehri on issues mentioned against their names.

Mr. Ahmed Kamran
Gun Free campaign

Mrs. Rizwan Abdullah
Gun Free campaign

Dr. Khairvee
Solid waste management

Mr. Syed Haider
Fund Raising (for which he has suggested a committee consisting of Faez Isa, Roland deSouza and himself to be set up to discuss this issue on a large scale).

Mr. Muslehuddin Ahmed
has shown interest in working in for Law Cases two to three days per month.

Mr. Salman Haroon
has opted to put in one hour at Shehri for volunteer service.

Mr. Mohammad Ali Rasheed
has offered to work for Citizen's Help Desk.

Mrs. Yasmeen Qayyum
Youth Activities

Each member was given two membership forms for enhancement of Shehri Membership. □

SAVE KIRTHAR NATIONAL PARK CAMPAIGN: AN UPDATE

Shell pulls out of the Kirthar National Park

The Shell Group agreed to a proposed asset swap arrangement with UK's Premier Oil to exchange its 49.9% holding in the Premier and Shell Pakistan BV joint venture for an extra 8% stake in the Bhil gas development in Pakistan's Kirthar concession (outside the Kirthar National Park area).

Shell terms this move as realignment of its operations in Pakistan, from exploration to production and development, while the environmental groups term it as a major victory in their campaign (May 2001).

Conservation law amended

The Governor of the Sindh Province, Mr. Mohammadman Soomro, through a Notification issued

the order, allowing for exploration in the national parks of Sindh province (June 2001).

Public Hearings of Kirthar Project EIA held

The Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) holds public hearings for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Seismic Exploration in the Sindh Protected Area (SPA) of the Dumbar Concession Area. Noted environmental groups like WWF Pakistan and SDPI attend and register their strong protest and written objections (June 2001).

NOC issued for the Kirthar EIA

SEPA issues a conditional No Objection Certificate to the EIA for the Seismic Exploration work in the Dumbar Concession Area (June 2001).



JUDICIARY

Setting priorities

In two landmark judgements, the High Court of Sindh Province has established that environmental protection and steps for ensuring clean and healthy living should remain the top priority of the policy makers of the province. Shehri - CBE was the driving force behind the initiation of these public interest litigations.

Sindh High Court asks civic bodies to follow Supreme Court guidelines

In a landmark judgement on a petition filed by Shehri-CBE and others, the Sindh High Court emphasises the need of strictly following the town planning laws and the importance of preserving and protecting open spaces and parks.

The Sindh High Court directed all those responsible for town planning and use of land in the province to strictly follow the provisions of Town-Planning Act, 1915 and the guide-lines laid down by the Supreme Court in various judgements.

This was spelt out in a division bench judgement, authored by Justice S.A. Sarwana, while allowing the public interest petition filed by Shehri and others pertaining to the sale of certain SRTC plots.

According to facts of the case after going into red and signing the bail out agreement with the provincial transport department earlier, to pay the liabilities of its employees, the corporation had in September 2000 decided to auction its various properties, including bus stands, depots, plots and colonies at Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana and Mirpurkhas.

On Oct. 12, 2000, Shehri and others filed a petition praying for declar-

ing that disposal of SRTC amenity land/transport workshops and terminals was contrary to the interest of the public, and their conversion to industrial/commer-

The court also ordered that the provincial government shall prepare appropriate town-planning and development schemes under the provisions of Town-Planning Act, 1915, and shall ensure that these open lands/plots are not converted into commercial, residential or industrial use without a proper plan or scheme.

cial and residential use was in violation of regulations, and town planning principles.

The petitioners, represented by Mr. Naimur Rahman advocate, had prayed for restraining the respondents from auctioning the property and parting with the physical possession of SRTC amenity plots or creating any third party interest.

The court had issued interim restraining order on Oct. 25, 2000,

which was extended from time to time.

Naimur Rahman had submitted that all plots in question were amenity plots which were being used by the corporation for the benefit of the public and these could not be sold as properties which can be used for commercial, residential or for any other use than for which they were being used by the corporation.

He had contended that because of the unplanned construction and breaches of the Building Control Laws, cities like Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur were already facing unhygienic living conditions.

Mr. Talmiz Burney, counsel for the SRTC, had stated that his client had acquired the properties mentioned in the advertisement from private parties which were not amenity plots. He had stated that his client shall sell the properties in question, subject to legal restrictions of use of land applicable at the time of sale.

Sarwar Khan, additional advocate general Sindh, stated that the provincial labour and transport department shall abide by the applicable laws relating to land use of the area already approved by the local government or any other relevant authority.



The court, however, observed that none of the counsel of the respondents stated that the open spaces being used by the Corporation for bus depots, workshops, bus terminals, bus stands and training schools would be kept as they are, and the said open areas will not be changed to residential, commercial or industrial use without any proper scheme.

While allowing the petition, Justice Sarwana held that the corporation is at liberty to sell and dispose of its land comprising workshops, bus depots, terminals, bus stands and training schools as specified in the public notice.

All such land would be sold, leased, transferred or disposed of subject to the condition that the buyer/bidder shall not use the land for purposes other than those

specified in the rules/policy of the local administration and the terms and regulations prescribed in the town-planning and development schemes for the area concerned, the order said.

The court also ordered that the provincial government shall prepare appropriate town-planning and development schemes under the provisions of Town-Planning Act, 1915, and shall ensure that these open lands/plots are not converted into commercial, residential or industrial use without a proper plan or scheme.

Sale of SRTC land would only be carried out subject to the condition that such land would be used in accordance with the Town Planning & Development Schemes prepared as above.

THANKS!

Shehri wishes to thank and appreciate the support extended by the following public spirited individuals in the SRTC amenity plots public interest litigation

Mr. Arif Hasan, Karachi
 Mr. Nazim Haji, Karachi
 Mr. S. A. Khan, Mirpurkhas
 Mr. Hameed Maker, Karachi
 Mrs. Salina Siddiqui, Karachi
 Bishop Bonaventure P. Paul, Hyderabad
 Mr. Mohammad Nauman, Karachi
 Mr. Joseph Eugene, Karachi

The judgement quoted from the Supreme Court decision *Abdul Razak vs KBCA* PLD 1994 SC 512, on the subject of town-planning. □

Sindh High Court says petition against Saima Towers maintainable

The public interest petition of Shehri and others against the construction of Saima Trade Towers on I. I. Chundrigar Road was found maintainable by a division bench of the Sindh High Court which ruled that it should be fixed for hearing.

Mr. Justice Zahid Kurban Alavi authored the judgement emphasizing the need for taking a broader view of the important question of aggrieved person or party, by relying on various case laws.

Counsel for the respondents, including builder, KBCA and interveners had questioned the locus standi of the petitioner and had argued that the petition is not maintainable.

Considerable reliance was made on the Supreme Court's judgement in Shaikh Liaquat Hussain's case with regard to the entire concept enshrined under Article 184(3).

The bench also took note of the complete lack of planning or perhaps due to an absence of check and balances on the part of authorities who are supposed to regulate the construction in this city, there has been a mushroom growth of buildings. This growth, it observed, is part of dynamism of a large city.

Mr. Naimur Rahman, advocate for the petitioner had relied on the meaning of aggrieved person on *Mian Fazal Deen Vs. Lahore Improvement Trust* on maintainability.

The court ruled that in the present day situation the concept of an aggrieved person has to be broad based. It would be essential for the courts to verify and ascertain that under no circumstances the petition should reflect or indicate malafide.

If indeed certain individuals or groups have over the years proved their bona fide for championing the cause connected with certain aspects of the city and which cause has been recognized earlier in several petitions filed under Article 199 of the Constitution, then cognizance should be taken of their pleas and after notice to the other side, decision should be given on merits, the court held.

This does not mean that the petitioner or petitioners should enjoy a *carte blanche* as they should also be fully



aware that the respondents are equally citizens of this country enjoying their own individual rights and any attempt to usurp those rights without justification can hold the petitioner vulnerable to serious charges, the order said.

Justice Alavi held that the concept of an aggrieved person has to be broad-based and it would be essential for the courts to verify and ascertain that under no circumstances the petition should reflect or indicate malafide, if individuals or groups have over the years proved their bona fide for championing the cause connected with certain aspects of the city.

The bench comprising Justice Zahid Kurban Alavi and Justice Anwer Zaheer Jamli had on June 20 reserved judgement in the petition filed by Shehri and Ardeshir Cowasjee, who have made the Karachi Building Control Authority and others respondents in the case.

The petitioners had maintained that construction of the project was illegal and they had prayed for declaring that the *original and revised plans for the building on the plot, approved in violation of the lease/land grant conditions and the Regulations are null and void ab initio.*

They had sought its demolition and restraining of the builder from raising any further construction or parting with physical possession of the construction already raised for creating any third party interest.

It was the contention of the petitioners that the KBCA should also be restrained from issuing any revised regularization approved plan, NOC for sale, or occupancy certificate, in respect of the build-

ing raised in violation of the Regulations and of the approved plan.

They had also prayed that the utility companies should be restrained from giving any electric, gas, telephone or water supply connections without proper occupancy certificate.

It is also the case of the petitioner that the builder has constructed the building with a plinth level about three feet above the road level, and has provided a podium with six steps to give access to the entrance of the building.

The petitioners contend that this podium is an encroachment on the notified cut-line setback of I. I. Chundrigar Road and will prevent the critically required road widening of this major thoroughfare for generations to come and will contribute to traffic congestion.

Counsel for the KBCA in his comments had stated that on Sept. 2, 1996 the Chief Minister accorded approval for basement+ground+mezzanine+19 floor.

The builder has constructed the building in accordance with approved plan/town planning approval and has occupied upto 6th floor, he had stated.

Respondent No. 10 (builder) in his counter affidavit contended that

the petition is not maintainable in law and the petitioners have not come to court with clean hands as they have no locus stand to file the petition as none of them live in the proximity of the project in question.

It was contended by this respondent that the entire stance of the petitioners is malafide, discriminatory, and violative of Article 25 of the Constitution. He maintained that the petitioner has singled out the project when on the same I. I. Chundrigar Road number of buildings exist with greater heights, stories and covered areas.

Some of them the petitioners have themselves approved while sitting in the Overseas Committee, of the KBCA.

Some parties filed applications under Order 1 Rule 10 CPC for joining as respondents. They have contended that they have purchased units after checking the facts that the builder is in lawful possession of an NOC of sale and advertisement from KBCA.

Mr. Naimur Rahman advocate represented the petitioners while Mr. Abdul Hafeez Pirzada, Mr. Rashid A. Rizvi and Dr. Barrister Farogh Naseem represented the respondents. □

"If indeed certain individuals or groups have over the years proved their bona fide for championing the cause connected with certain aspects of the city and which cause has been recognized earlier in several petitions filed under Article 199 of the Constitution, then cognizance should be taken of their pleas and after notice to the other side, decision should be given on merits," the court held



COMMENT

Legalizing the illegal buildings

As the Sindh Government prepares to take the bizarre decision to render "legal" what is "illegal", Qazi Faez Isa takes a critical view of the Draft of the Sindh Building Control (Amendment Ordinance, 2001)

Break the law and profit, appears to be the new motto of the Sindh Government. This emerges from the draft of the Sindh Building Control (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001. If this law is promulgated, it will enable the government, through the aegis of the Karachi Building Control Authority (KBCA), to strike deals with those who have raised construction in contravention of the law.

Major building violations would be condoned provided the law breaker shares a part of their ill-gotten profit with the KBCA. Hitherto such deals were illegal. A number of politicians and bureaucrats have been convicted by Accountability Courts and references are pending against others for having permitted building laws to be violated and in respect of illegally allowing the conversion of land use. All this is now to change.

The preposterous law audaciously and shamefully pronounces, in its preamble, that the only reason for its enactment is that *it is expedient* to do so.

The draft also profoundly reminds the citizens of the largest city in Pakistan, and among one of the largest in the world, that *the Provincial Assembly is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action*. What are these circumstances and why is it necessary to make *legal* what is illegal

has not been explained.

Having failed to a considerable extent in ensuring that buildings are raised in accordance with law, the Government of Sindh is seriously thinking of changing the law. This reminds one of Allah Rakha, the honest SHO, within the jurisdiction of whose police station a steady increase in crimes was being recorded.

He was reprimanded for the surge in criminal activity in the area. He resolved this dilemma by only permitting a few FIRs to be lodged in the police station. His superiors praised him for controlling crime in the area and recommended his promotion. Just like Allah Rakha *controlled* crime, by refusing to register

FIRs, the KBCA and the Government, will ensure that no illegal buildings are permitted to remain by changing the definition of *illegal*. Unlike Allah Rakha, who did not demand a bribe from criminals not to register FIRs, against them the Government of Sindh wants a percentage of the profits.

The proposed law is completely

devoid of morality and ethics and reveals contempt for citizens never before so blatantly demonstrated. Karachi is seen merely as a resource base to be exploited by the Government of Sindh to augment its coffers and to financially gain from the environmental degradation of the city. After pocketing a part of the misgotten wealth of builders, like modern day alchemists, the government will perform a miraculous transformation of illegal construction into 'legal' construction.

The law on buildings is contained in the Sindh Building Control Ordinance, 1979, therefore if any change is to be made thereto, it is expected that the highest body constituted under the

Ordinance would be consulted first. Unfortunately, the Overseer Committee was bypassed. This Committee was constituted under a Caretaker Government and comprises professional bodies of architects, engineers, town planners, builders and other designated members. When Maqbool Rahimtoola was the caretaker minister for Housing and Town Planning,

Military governments decry political governments as being corrupt. One of the most profitable avenues of enrichment has been in allowing the violation of building laws, yet this government is proposing something which none of its corrupt predecessors dreamt of in their most heady spells of power, the very destruction of civil society and the rule of law.



he held a meeting and invited involved citizens. His opening words were to the effect that *I have only 77 days left in office therefore please make practical suggestions*. He agreed to formulate this committee, which the law required but which had not been made for over 17 years. He delivered on his promise within the next few days and enacted the Oversee Committee to keep a check on the KBCA. The citizens of Karachi are indebted to him for this.

The Oversee Committee has worked with fierce independence. It has passed resolutions against sitting ministers and chief ministers whenever they illegally interfered with the workings of the KBCA and sustained the wrath of the MQM, PPP and PML government.

The Nawaz Sharif provincial government had earlier become so incensed with the committee's watchdog role that it had it denotified. In a remarkable show of unity the citizens of Karachi raised a ruckus and it was resuscitated. This government, probably realizing that the Oversee Committee of KBCA would reject its bizarre proposal, sinisterly did not table its proposal before it.

Having acknowledged that it is acting at a time when the Provincial Assembly stands dissolved, it was expected that the government would have consulted the Oversee

Committee, an established statutory body, directly concerned with the subject. In an interesting development, the committee having learnt of the proposal passed a resolution on 8th August 2001 in its monthly meeting and strongly objected to the proposed law for the following reasons:

The KBCA has hundreds of employees, everyone of whom is paid for by the City. Their job, in a nutshell, is to ensure that buildings are raised in accordance with the law. In proposing the new law they admit their failure. We do not reward dedication and integrity but failure and criminals.

- The government must maintain law and order, and implement its writ without bowing down before law-breakers.
- Mass regularization is a negation of the citizens' fundamental 'right to life'.
- Such regularization will open the floodgate of escalated illegal construction.
- The town-planning and zonal regulations of the city will become meaningless.
- The physical and social amenities / infrastructure in the city will collapse.
- The quality of life and the state of the environment will be degraded beyond recognition.

The aforesaid resolution was unanimously passed. The Chief Controller of Buildings of the KBCA however abstained.

Today, ostensibly we have a clean government and brigadiers straddle all of Karachi's key institutions (including the KDA, KMC and

KBCA), but never before in the history of the city has an attempt been made to make *legal* what is illegal.

Military governments decry political governments as being corrupt. One of the most profitable avenues of enrichment has been in allowing the violation of building laws, yet this government is proposing something which none of its corrupt predecessors dreamt of in their most heady spells of power, the very destruction of civil society and the rule of law. The proposed law seeks to even remove the stigma of corruption, the fear of discovery and the threat of prosecution.

The Government of Sindh is legalizing corruption and shall play the part of the minor beneficiary in the desecration of the law.

The KBCA has hundreds of employees, everyone of whom is paid for by the City. Their job, in a nutshell, is to ensure that buildings are raised in accordance with the law. In proposing the new law they admit their failure. We do not reward dedication and integrity but failure and criminals.

The KBCA will share in the booty of the illegal builder for not doing its job. Faced with such a state of affairs one still hears the mantra of *good governance, accountability, transparency, corrupt politicians and pious saviours*. In killing the law and selling bits and pieces of it, the kindest sobriquet which the makers of this law earn for themselves, is *The Undertakers*. □

(Qazi Faez Isa is Member, Managing Committee and Former Chairperson - Shehri-CBE)

Courtesy: Daily DAWN, Karachi.



DEBATE

Kirthar: the theory and practice of power politics

In this case study, Lucy Harrigan writes about the various dimensions of the game of power politics being played as a small groups of committed conservationists battle big corporate business and the states desire for short term political and financial interests over the Kirthar National Park issue.

The preservation and development of the human habitat necessitates for some areas to be kept in their natural state.

Kirthar National Park is the largest (308,733Ha) national park in Pakistan and is the central core of a group of protected areas in the region. It's defining features are its outstanding natural beauty, its species diversity and its cultural heritage.

In 1997, the Government of Pakistan gave Premier Oil Group a license to explore for natural gas and oil reserves in the Sindh province of Pakistan, in an area which also covers 90% of the Kirthar National Park. There has been uproar by local pressure groups who have challenged the state and aim to mobilise local people in defence of the local environment against outside interests.

The case of Kirthar National Park is a Pakistani issue but it has implications to the exploitation of world resources and to international conservation efforts.

The exploration licence violates the Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1972 (and 1993 Amendment). Section 15 of the Act prohibits *clearing or breaking up any land for cultivation, mining or for any other purposes.* (SKNP, 2000).

August 1997 saw the start of dia-

logue between the Government and environmental groups.

In 1998, Premier Oil and Shell set up a joint venture company registered in the Netherlands called Kirthar Development BV, commonly known as Premier-Shell. The company is now in charge of natural gas exploration in the park. (Rizvi, 2000).

As a result of the initial dialogue, a consensus was reached on a comprehensive study on the park. Resistance from the pressure groups forced the government and

findings of the baseline study had been finalised. The decision of the EIA was supposed to have been made from the results of the baseline study. The baseline study, conducted by the University of Melbourne, clearly shows just how rich the biodiversity in the park is.

A petition was filed against the exploration for commercial use of gas. The anti-exploration groups have taken the Pakistani government to court pursuing a legal strategy and citing Section 15 of the Sindh Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act of 1993 (Baldi & Kubukeli 2000).



Pawns
in a larger
game?

The main actors

The national government of Pakistan has played a vital role in the issue of Kirthar National Park. It has shown capabilities to make the final decisions and shown ability to take away provincial autonomy

from the Sindh province. The Governor of Sindh province, Mohammed Mian Soomro was formerly a director of Shell-Pakistan (ENN, 2001).

Local pressure groups have formed a coalition to save Kirthar National Park and protect the integrity of it's inhabitants.

The latest actor in this issue is the high court of Pakistan, now that the NGO's have taken the case to court.

Premier-Shell to agree in May to conduct a baseline study of the park before carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The companies agreed to fund the baseline study, which was conducted by the Hawthorn Consulting Group of the University of Melbourne (Rafiq, 2000).

September 2000, the Government awarded, Agra Earth Environmental, a Canadian consulting firm, the contract to conduct the EIA. This decision was made before the



Application of political theory

Environmental protection is always a highly political issue and it would be simplistic to claim that environmental action groups want to protect their local ecology while nasty business interests wish to destroy it. By applying political theory to this issue I hope to show that there is more to this case than that.

Power

Politics involves the application of power through decision-making, non-decision-making and thought control. In this case study, I will use Lukes (1974) power ideals to relate to this issue.

"A exercises power over B when A affects B in a manner contrary to B's interests" (Lukes, 1974, p34)

Lukes uses three methods in which to view the application of power in political science. The theories are each a development of the previous one and demonstrate a greater amount of power held by A. Table 1 is a summary of Lukes three theories.

vetoing of policies. The Government can exert a lot of power over the people of Pakistan. They bypassed the National Park Status of the park to be able to grant the exploration licence.

To have power, influence or control is the capacity to change a probable pattern of specified events, envisaged in a decision making process. Until the baseline study was agreed to, the Government was exercising 1st dimension power over the opposers to the exploration. Grievances were being voiced but these grievances remained outside the policy-making network and therefore had little influence on the decision-makers in the Government.

Second Dimensional View of Power

2nd dimension power is involved in agenda setting and non-decision-making, where *"decisions are prevented from being taken on political issues over which there is an observable conflict of interest"* (Lukes, 1974, p20). It builds upon the 1st dimension view, A still exercises

organisation have some sort of bias in favour of the exploitation of conflict and the suppression of others. As decision-making proceeds, the political environment is changed supporting the positions of the decision-makers. This naturally results in the organisation of interest and the mobilisation of bias, where some issues are organised into the decision-making process while others are organised out.

"a set of predominant values, beliefs, rituals, and institutional procedures (rules of the game) that operate systematically and consistently to the benefit of certain persons and groups at the expense of others. Those who benefit are placed in a preferred position to defend and promote their vested interests." (Bachrach & Baratz, 1970. In Lukes, 1974, p17)

In securing the Dumbar Block Exploration Licence, Premier-Shell were thought to have exerted pressure on the Sindh Government to modify provincial conservation laws that would permit the gas exploration (Baldi & Kubukeli, 2000). The pressure of multinational-

Table 1: A summary of the three dimensions of power. (From Jordan, 2001)

	1st Dimension	2nd Dimension	3rd Dimension
Mechanism	Decision making	Agenda setting	Thought control
Level	Surface	Hidden	Completely hidden
Interests	Expressed as preferences	Expressed and hidden grievances	Unclear
Complexity	Simple	Complex	Very Complex
Label	Pluralist	Neo-pluralist	Structuralist

First Dimensional View of Power

First dimension power often involves conflict over important issues, initiation of policy and

power over B, but A also restricts the influence of B's actions.

2nd dimension power takes into account that all forms of political

al corporations on governments of industrialising nations is immense.

In this instance the government by its decision to start with the EIA was exerting 2nd dimension



power over the NGO's.

Non-decision-making or suppressing the values and interests of others was exercised by the government when they did not invite all relevant parties to discussions, therefore keeping some views off the agenda. Only international conservation agencies were invited to the relevant meetings. Local citizens views were suppressed.

Third Dimensional View of Power

3rd dimension Power or thought control is not as obvious and easily studied as the 1st two. All of the choices, grievances and decisions identified in the 1st and 2nd dimension views of power were considered to be of conscious thought.

"A may exercise power over B by getting him to do what he does not want to do, but he also exercises power over him by influencing, shaping or determining his very wants". (Lukes, 1974, p23)

The government recently raised the price of natural gas prices and this enhanced the incentive to mine for gas in National Parks like Kirthar. This is an example of the Pakistani Government exercising 3rd dimension power over the people of Pakistan.

Thought control is often obtained through control of information, mass media, and education.

Secrecy & Accountability

In a situation like this, with so many stakeholders, the government of Pakistan should be accountable to the people of Pakistan, but politics is secretive and accountability doesn't often work.

The secrecy of this issue was made prevalent after the government

banned the oil company representatives from talking to the press about the project. "We can't talk to the press without prior approval of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources," said a Premier Oil official on the condition that his name would not be used (Rizvi, 2000). Several crucial meetings and seminars about the park did not include everyone. The government actively discouraged this.

Pressure Groups

In Southern Asia there has been a rise in citizen groups because of the failure of governments to be accountable. Wherever there is an element of social interest, a pressure group can be formed. Policy making is influenced by pressure group networks thereby transferring power to the ordinary citizens.

Pressure groups give legitimacy to an idea that probably would not normally be on the agenda. In this case the powerful bodies in the government would have liked their views on gas and oil exploration to go into policy all the time and normally would do. The pressure groups have brought an issue up which would have otherwise been passed. These groups are mostly political advocacy groups promoting interests via lobbying and campaigning.

The new social movement theory can be applied to the unofficial groups that are campaigning against the exploration. Campaigning for the environment is a new social movement.

"Pressure groups form a coalition around social movements which give expression to value changes and purposeful shifts in the pattern of concerns and political priorities. This is brought on by education, mobility, mass communication and non-materi-

alism" (O'Riordan, 2001).

These action groups in this case are extremely valuable in providing information to circles which would not normally be included. Also the coalitions of groups that was formed can share knowledge, resources, power and legitimacy. This coalition also enlisted outside help to strengthen the campaign. International and national pressure groups have been involved.

Democracy

"When many countries left colonial rule, countries were optimistic of economic and political prospects. The vast majority of third world countries emerged at a time when the global economic system was already established. How could they hope to prosper in an economic system not of their making and whose "rules" they couldn't change. Had to try and win the trust of citizens by policies perceived to be in the national interest. (Haynes, 1997)

Democracy is a very important issue in a third world democratic state. In a country like Pakistan it is a vital part to the changing society that there are demands and the citizens are thinking about what they want.

A problem which the Pakistani Government is facing over this issue, is that once a regime allows increasing questioning of the status quo it may find that it is very difficult to keep the bounds of political debate within narrow parameters.

The political elite is very likely to include rich people with interests in environmental destructive industries, e.g. oil and gas exploration. Extraction of valuable resources is of course a revenue-generating strategy embraced by third world governments (Haynes,



1997), who allocate extraction rights for the *greater good of society*. During the discourse over this issue, the government has labeled the groups against exploration as *anti-development*, reassuring that those living near the park will stand to prosper from mining. The people are not necessarily anti-development, just skeptical about how much they will actually benefit from mining in the park. The locals cite Sui as an example of what will happen. Sui is a city where the largest natural gas reserves in Pakistan were found and have long been developed, but people are still struggling to get cooking gas connections in their homes. (Baldi & Dubukeli, 2000)

Conclusions

What if Premier-Shell withholds the Dumber Block Exploration Licence? The current situation is that level of consumption of oil, gas and energy is increasing in Pakistan. The country imports a lot of oil annually. This is a major drain on foreign exchange reserves in a county that is heavily indebted and faces a US\$2 billion trade deficit (Rizvi, 2000). Under these circumstances, it is clear why the Pakistani government wants to explore local sources of energy. Kirthar is just one of many potential sources.

What would this mean to the rest of the world and the power that multinational corporations have on us. The safety of our most treasured ecological sites is always at stake. Many people are worried that if Kirthar is explored today against the country's laws, then tomorrow all protected areas will be an open field for destruction. Large oil companies are always going to want to exploit natural resources in areas wherever they are found. If this case was won by the pressure groups, it will be a start for other groups to exert pres-

sure on multinational companies.

Premier-Shell is looking at Kirthar in the short to medium term, due to the short well life of the fields of 10 to 15 years. They believe that there will be jobs provided for the communities in Kirthar. Surely there are already more sustainable, forward planning jobs in Kirthar National Park, like wildlife management or eco-tourism.

The action groups in Pakistan are constituent elements in an emerging civil society. They enable socio-political empowerment and give people a chance to get their viewpoints across.

What is needed is a compromise between the needs of park dwellers and the essentials of industrial growth. This is a highly political question; there are established interests on both side. It seems unlikely, however, that the power of environmental protection groups is normally sufficient to cope with that of the state and business interests.

This issue is generally being fought as a conservation issue, due to the changing of the provincial law to allow exploration. There is a lot more to this issue than purely conservation. It has many more wider socio-economic and political concerns, local people, land, democracy, autonomy.

In explanation of which power theory works best with this study, I must say that this is a real life

example of a small group of powerful elites potentially ruining the lives of thousands, therefore I believe that it is hard for me to put

Many people are worried that if Kirthar is explored today against the country's laws, then tomorrow all protected areas will be an open field for destruction. Large oil companies are always going to want to exploit natural resources in areas wherever they are found. If this case was won by the pressure groups, it will be a start for other groups to exert pressure on multinational companies.

a theory to this. This issue is a lot more serious than studying it as a case study allows. As shown in this study, Lukes' three dimensions of power do fit various stages of this issue. Overall, it is a situation where the oil company elite exercises power over all of the other stakeholders, including the government. Their selfish monopolising views are not obvious to any of their allies, and they remain the most powerful group of them all. They exert 2nd dimension power over anti-exploration groups and 3rd dimension power over the Pakistani Government. When individuals can make such serious decisions for people that will have so many negative wide ranging effects why should people be sitting around worrying about which theory of power works best here. We should all be getting out there and doing something about it! □

(Extracts from the course case study on "Environmental Politics and Management", by Lucy Harrigan, a student of the School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia United Kingdom)

This case study was written prior to Shell group's pullout from the Kirthar Project



‘SAVE KIRTHAR’ *campaign hits the International Press!!*

As the Save Kirthar Campaign heats up, the International Press also latches on to the ongoing controversy. Following are excerpts from some of the coverage the campaign has received in the foreign press

Shell pulls out of Pakistan Park

From the newsroom of the BBC World Service.
Thursday, May 10, 2001

Environmental groups have welcomed an announcement that the Anglo-Dutch oil firm, Shell is pulling out of a gas exploration project in a national park in Sindh Province. The park is home to several endangered species. The environmental group Friends of the Earth, which had been taking legal action against Shell, said it greeted the news with delight. Shell said its decision had nothing to do with the controversy it was simply re-arranging its business in Pakistan.

Environmentalists are expressing outrage that Shell's former partner, Premier Oil, is pressing on with the project.

Premier Oil's Pak environment study dubbed a "whitewash".

Andrea Li
Platts News Service, Hong Kong.
July 10, 2001

Premier Oil's environmental impact assessment of Pakistan's Kirthar Park in Sindh Province has been described as a "whitewash" by the country's environmental groups. "Their EIA was quite skeptical as it was very brief," said a source at Pakistani, Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment. "It was not a proper study. It was a white wash", he added. Environmental

Groups have claimed that Premier used previous government studies of the park to complete its EIA. Premier oil was unavailable for comment. A government Committee will review the study before approving it sometime next week. With the EIA's approval, Premier will be given the go ahead to explore the park's gas reserves. It had earlier partnered with Shell, who pulled out of the venture after realigning its activities.

Premier's Pakistan Gas Bid many face court challenge

Andy Solomon, Reuters, Pakistan, July 19, 2001

Environmentalists in Pakistan said on Thursday they would make a fresh court challenge in a bid to stop Britain's Premier Oil from exploring for gas in the country's largest national park.

Premier said this week it had been given permission to conduct seismic gas exploration surveys in Kirthar National park. "We are going to be challenging it. (the approval)" said Farhan Anwar, an Executive Member of Karachi based non governmental organization Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment.

"The courts are currently closed for summer break and they will be opening in the first week of August

and we plan to challenge this amendment that the government has made to the law," he said.

Shaiq Usmani, a lawyer representing the environmentalists, said a court petition against the Pakistani government/Sindh Province, Premier/Shell had been lodged late last year but a hearing had never taken place due to various delays.

"This amendment that was introduced certainly appears mala fide, (bad faith) because it has been issued after the (original) petition had been filed", he said.



Premier Oil's Pakistan Shell Deal Risks Green Offensive

Simeon Kerr, Dow Jones News
May 10, 2001

In a week when Royal Dutch/Shell Groups (RD) environment record was under the spotlight in Nigeria, UK exploration and production company, Premier Oil PLC (PMOLY) will have taken another environmental hot potato off Shell's hands if the two companies proposed set swap in Pakistan goes ahead. The deal, which is subject to the government of Pakistan's approval, would see Premier Oil taking 100% control of the companies joint venture, Premier Shell Pakistan B.V.

"The project is already delayed because of our campaign. Two year on and they haven't dug up anything," said Farhan Anwar of Pakistani non-governmental organization, Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment.

Friends of the Earth, while not a formal litigant in the case, has intervened by submitting a dossier rejecting Premier Shell Pakistan's argument to the court that gas exploration wouldn't harm the environment.

If the court case, currently in recess, fails to achieve the objectives of the NGO's, Bennet said Friends of the Earth would use other tactics in pursuit of their cause. "First we would lobby institutional and individual investors to persuade premier of the need to stop the project," he said.

If that fails, his organization would direct its efforts towards retail outlets who sell Premier Oil's products. "Premir oil, unlike shell, doesn't have any downstream interests, or a high street profile - so we will have to create one for them, so consumer pressure can also be brought to bear", he said.

So, did Shell bail out of this project due to the rising tide of environmental criticism in Pakistan?

Unsurprisingly, Friends of the Earth think so.

The lesson for Shell is to think hard before exploring in protected areas so they dont have to sign dumb deals like this to escape once they get into trouble," Bennet said. But Shell disagrees. "Shell has been seeking to realign its exploration and production portfolio in Pakistan since mid-2000 and this proposed swap will effectively concentrate Shell's activities in production and development", a company statement said.

Oil giants threaten asian wildlife sites

Media Briefing by Friends of the Earth
Monday, May 14, 2001

Last week, to the delight of Friends of the Earth, Shell dramatically pulled out of plans to explore for gas in Kirthar National Park, the oldest national park in Pakistan, Premier Oil, its former partner in the project, will now go it alone.

Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) the worlds largest environmental network, last month joined Pakistani environment groups in a legal challenge against Shell in a bid to protect wildlife in the park from big business. In written evidence to the court, Royal Dutch Shell had sought to play down environmental fears by citing examples of where it claims the oil and gas industry has operated in "harmonious coexistence" and "perfect harmony" with the environment. But FOEI, the worlds largest environmental network, last month submitted a 380 page dossier of evidence to the contrary including a detailed synopsis of the appalling environmental and human rights abuses associated with the industry in Nigeria.

The Shell announcement means that Premier Oil will now be alone in taking on the financial and reputation risks associated with exploration in Kirthar Park. Premier oil is already facing controversy over its operations in Burma, where according to John Jackson of the Burma campaign. "They are helping to fuel one of the world most brutal and oppressive regimes".

Stories of those who resist

Resistance Bulletin No. 16,
Oil Watch Network
May 2001

Wildlife groups in Pakistan are taking Shell to court over what they claim are its "illegal" plans to drill for gas in Kirathar National Park.

Farhan Anwar of Shehri-CBE said, "Shell's project is illegal. Our law clearly prohibits any kind of mining or exploration activity in these areas. But we are concerned that this massive corporation may be using its influence and contacts with ex-Shell employees now in government to trash our wildlife laws. We call on investors with money in Shell to ask the company how it can defend its action".



SPOTLIGHT ON THE PRESS

Monitoring teams to verify payments

DAWN, August 9, 2001

The federal government on Wednesday directed release of development funds of local governments through monitoring teams, official sources said here.

However, the political observers said the decision has belied the government's claim of giving financial autonomy to the local governments.

According to the decision monitoring teams, would regularly supervise execution of development schemes to ensure quality of work and completion of project within the stipulated time.

No information department in new city government setup

THE STAR, August 20, 2001

The new Sindh Local Government Ordinance 2001 is silent about the provision of establishment of information department in the City government.

Sources in the defunct KMC said 14 departments have been formed in the City government in which KMC, KDA, KWSB, LDA, MDA, DMCs and Sindh government departments have been merged without any information department.

Nazims at mercy of bureaucrats

DAWN, August 21, 2001

The newly-elected Nazims and Naib Nazims of city, towns and union councils are at the mercy of bureaucrats in exercising their day-to-day responsibilities as several issues regarding their duties and authority still remain unresolved and are yet to be fully explained to the elected representatives.

Among various other issues which are not clear as yet, the problem of paying salaries to the government employees, who have been transferred from provincial to district governments, is assuming more difficulties.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

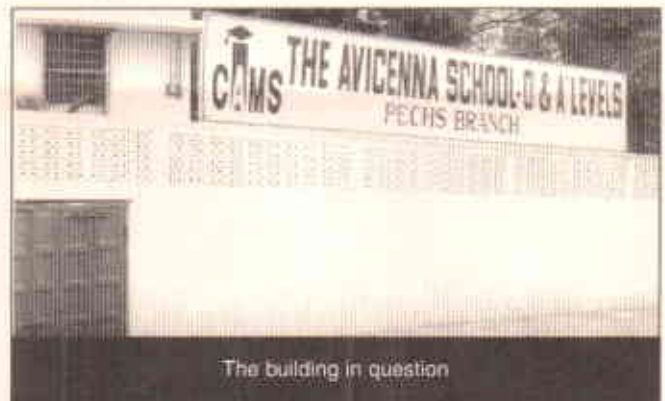
SHEHRI invites the residents of the city to share with us, their concerns, on issues which are adversely affecting their neighbourhood's environment. Please write to us, preferably with a supporting photograph, so that efforts are made and solutions sought - Ed.

Unauthorized Construction On House No. 43/5/B-Block-6, P.E.C.H.S.

We have come to know that the owner Mrs. Raana Zaidi W/o. S. H. N. Zaidi of House No. 43/5/B Block 6, P.E.C.H.S. now shifted to House No. 4 A/1 Sunset Avenue Phase II Extension Defence Housing Authority Karachi has let out her said premises on rent to M/s. The Avicenna School for establishing therein a school in the name of *The Avicenna School*. They have made arrangements for establishing and opening the school in the said residential premises.

We the Muhalla people living just in front and in the neighborhood of the aforesaid premise wherein the school is going to be established/ opened shall be very much disturbed mentally and inconvenienced due to having the school in the aforesaid residential premises if it is allowed to be established/opened. It is a clear violation of the covenant of the lease granted to the said Mrs. Raana Zaidi. The lease of the premises was granted for residential purpose and cannot be used and/or caused to be used for any commercial purpose.

We the residents of the Mohalla as well as the neighbours shall also be deprived of our legal and valuable right of easement in case the school in the aforesaid premises is allowed to be established/opened which nuisance shall surely affect us adversely in our peaceful living.



The concerned authorities are therefore requested to kindly ensure of not using the aforesaid residential premises for any commercial purpose including of establishing/opening the school therein except to its use only for residential purpose for which the same has been granted under the lease failing which we shall be constrained to seek the proper legal remedy in the courts of Law in order to collect our legal rights as well as against the violation and infringement of the covenant of the lease. □

Residents of Block 6, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi.



YOUNG VOICES

On a Sea Shore

The mighty sea rumbles and roars;
 As it's waves thrash against the shores;
 With vehemence they break the rock they hit,
 Drenched and entranced as I watch and sit.
 Enraptured by the motion and strength,
 Silently as I inhale the salty scent.
 The clear blue heavens smile at the sea.
 The sunrays dance on the water with
 happiness and glee.
 A wandering gull in the sky falls to
 grab its prey,
 Flapping its wings, lo! The catch of the day.
 A show of determination and strong will.
 The courage makes me shiver with thrill.
 If man too can follow this bird,
 So much he can get from this unyielding world.
 The sun now sinks slowly where the sea ends,
 Throwing its orange shades, such tranquility to
 atmosphere it lends.
 The gull now screams in the sky,
 For the day is ending and destiny is a far cry.
 The mighty sea calms down, as it is
 time to sleep.
 Towards the rocks as it now creeps.
 The soft waves lap against my toes;
 Gradually as the darkness grows.
 Now it's time to move away,
 For tomorrow I'll be starting a new day.

– Bushra Tariq

TIT BITS

We all eat potatoes in every form but very few of us realize the risks we incur by eating the parts of the potato which have turned green. The green substance on the potato is chlorophyll produced when a portion of the potato grew above the ground and was exposed to sunlight. This exposure may also be the cause of the development of solanine, a toxic material. Eating such portions, or even such potatoes can cause gastrointestinal problems, stomach cancer, haemolytic anaemias as well as cardiovascular and respiratory depressions.

Editorial

The Food We Eat

With the passage of time we too are entering an age of technological advancement but sadly it is causing us to overlook a very important material aspect of our life; food.

On one hand the pollutants in the impure water flowing in the land of the pure play havoc with the crops while on the other farmers do their duty to the chemical fertilizer industry by spraying them generously with fertilizer.

With such an overdose of chemicals what is to become of the soil? On top of everything the administrators are ready to dump the pollutants anywhere rather than have them on their hands.

Most studies conducted in recent years show an increase in the bio-concentration of the soils. True, that these are necessary for plants; but in limited quantities, otherwise they can easily prove toxic to both, the plants and its consumers.

All that can be said to those people who prefer to keep mum over the issue is, that "Don't worry, it will be brought home to you". □

A Future Uncertain

A. Khan analysis our country's present scenario reflecting the despairing attitude of our country's youth.

It is a challenge to our existence. If we are to exist as a nation and give shape to the dream of Pakistan, we will have to face the problems with determination and force. Our people are not organized today and are worried because of the difficulties. We will have to work harder to pull them out of despair and distress. They are looking for our guidance and encouragement. This is a sentence, which reflects

the feelings of Quaid-e-Azam during his speech in the most difficult times faced by Pakistan soon after its independence. It carries a hint of pain and worry too as he had taken on the responsibility of making Pakistan strong and stable, but unfortunately he could not fulfill his dreams due to his early death. However, the Quaid died peacefully as he had great faith in his followers and his nation, but he never realized that they did not have the faith or the determination that he possessed. Nor the



courage that could make his unfulfilled dreams come true.

Many people came to govern the country but they lacked the Quaid's spirit that could make the Pakistanis an ideal nation. A nation cannot be successful unless its leadership is determined to

make it so. People coming to rule the country hold their jobs not in the interest of the country but in their own interests. The treasures of the country have been swept away by them and their families, as a result of which Pakistan is blamed to be poor. The nation has become highly indebted due to the corruption of our rulers but there is no one to ask them where all the assets have gone.

A ruler is not convicted of a crime for which our Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) said that other nations were destroyed because when a well-connected, rich man would commit a crime, they did not punish him whereas a poor person was punished for the same? The rich have their properties spread all over the world whereas an ordinary educated person is forced to starve just because he is jobless on account of the highly poor economic condition of the country.

Why is Pakistan a backward country? Why are so many people jobless here? Why do people tend to earn their living through beggary and robbery? The answer to these questions is not that the country lacks education and talent. It is because its rulers have left it so

The unconcerned attitude of the administrative bodies has given birth to rebellious youngsters who have started hating the country and have decided to go abroad.

This is not a case of one or two graduates but it's a matter concerning the attitude of almost the whole nation.

decided to go abroad. This is not a case of one or two graduates but it's a matter concerning the attitude of almost the whole nation.

When a fresh young graduate sees an unworthy person sitting on a position where he should have been, he either decides to go abroad or if he cannot afford that, he prefers getting easy money by hook or by crook because he knows that even if he dies by committing suicide, it will have no effect on anyone and unemployment will always prevail in the country. This is the sad state of affairs, which makes him so desperate that he is ready to do any thing to keep his family at par with the rich.

Nowadays we find at least one member of a family earning abroad. Pakistan was established with an aim to provide security and basic necessities to its people but to our disgrace, people holding such aims could not fulfill them. Pakistan claims to have abundant power resources and the biggest earth filled dam in the world.

If this is true, then why are we subjected to bear the pain of load

unprolific that even if we try to improve our country's condition from scratch, I don't think there will be any result. The unconcerned attitude of the administrative bodies has given birth to rebellious

youngsters who have started hating the country and have

shedding and water shortage every day? Where does all this electricity and water go? This is all because of ill management and lack of interest. Students are compelled to spend a dark night with a fear of submitting an unprepared paper the next morning. The rich are getting richer and richer day by day whereas things don't seem to change for the poor. Not because they don't struggle or they



What future our children?

are uneducated, but just because they don't have any source to grease the palms of the authorities!

Nearly half a century has passed since the Quid urged the people to *face the problems with determination* but instead they are running away cowardly. He called on the government officials to work harder to pull them out of despair and distress but it seems that they themselves are in need of someone who would pull them out! Where did we come from and where are we going? Ours is the tragedy of a glorious past, a present that is ticking away and an uncertain future. □

**Editor, Young Voices
Kiran Bashir Ahmad**



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. How many town and union councils have been established in the new district government setup in Karachi.

Erum Hussain, Nazimabad, Karachi

A. 18 Town Councils
178 Union Councils

Q. What will happen to the post of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner under the new setup?

Arshad Shah, Rizvia Society, Karachi

A. As the administrative tier of "Division", has been abolished, therefore the posts of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner have ceased to exist in the new setup.

Q. Will there be a new system of administration for rural Karachi in the new setup?

Uzma Jamote, Rehri, Karachi

A. A merger of rural and urban Karachi has taken place in the new setup within the town and union councils arrangement.

Shehri needs volunteers

to work in its following
subcommittees

Legal
Media & Outreach
Anti-Pollution
Parks & Recreation
Gun Free Society
Conservation & Heritage
Fund Raiser

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 2001! Join
Shehri and do your bit as a good
citizen to make this city a clean,
healthy and environmentally
friendly place to live in!

POLLUTION

Colonial birds as bioindicators of pollutants

WorldWide Fund for Nature (WWF) Pakistan in collaboration with the University of Pavia, Italy, University of Barcelona, Spain and the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Islamabad has been involved in a research study from 1999-2001 (which is ongoing). In this study, three different wetlands (Haleji Lake, Coastal Area of Karachi, Taunsa Barrage) have been assessed for various pollutants by using colonial waterbirds as bio-indicators of pollutant levels. Financial support for the study has been provided by the European Union. Shehri outlines the results achieved so far.

Pollutant levels and their effects have been assessed from selected coastal and inland wetlands in Pakistan and China and egrets and herons have been used as bio-indicators. Following contaminants were studied for this research:

- Inorganic elements particularly heavy metals
- DDT and derivatives
- Other organochlorides
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)

Egrets and herons were used as bio-indicators since they are among top predators and are liable to concentrate contaminants, are widespread, use a variety of habitats, and have been intensely studied so that comparative information is available from other regions.

For this study eggs, feathers, breeding success, prey and sediment from the habitat was collected from three different wetlands of Pakistan.

Haleji Lake, a fresh water lake with associated marshes and adjacent brackish seepage lagoons was taken as a non-polluted wetland. Taunsa is a storage reservoir behind a barrage on River Indus and was taken as a wetland with agricultural pollution. Karachi harbour has tidal creeks, mangrove swamps and intertidal mudflats subject to considerable urban and industrial pollution.

Three wetlands with the same type of pollutant sources were studied in China.

Heavy metal contamination in the samples from Pakistan

Two analytical techniques were used for all the sample materials, that were split in two parts of similar amounts, whenever their amount was sufficient: Atomic Adsorption Spectrophotometry (AAS) for cadmium, mercury and lead, and Neutronic Activation Analysis (NAA) for the remaining elements. The results summarised below are complete for NNA, but include only about one half of the results of AAS analysis, that are still in progress.

Contamination level in the samples

In eggs, contaminant levels were very low. there were significant differences in zinc, cadmium, and lead concentration between locations. The highest levels of cadmium and zinc occurred, surprisingly, at Haleji.

In feathers, there were significant differences in bromine, cobalt, cesium and copper concentration between locations. The highest levels of bromine and cesium occurred in Karachi, the highest levels of cobalt in Taunsa, and those of copper in Haleji. High



Field work in progress

concentrations of iron were found in the samples from Karachi and Taunsa.

In prey, high concentrations of iron were found. There were significant differences in chromium, mercury and lead concentration between the three locations. The highest levels occurred in samples from Karachi.

In sediments, there were significant differences in bromine, cesium, lanthanum, cadmium and mercury concentration between the three locations.

The highest levels of bromine, cesium, cadmium and mercury occurred in samples of Karachi and those of lanthanum in samples from Taunsa barrage. □

Model Neighbourhood Management Project: An Update

The Neighbourhood Management project involving students of the International School, Karachi and Shehri team is ongoing.

The project team, as part of their project orientation program, visited the Karachi Administrative Employees Cooperative Housing Society (KAECHS), where they were briefed on the working of the Karachi Administrative Women Welfare Society (KAWWS) by Ms. Sarah Siddiqui of KAWWS. They were shown around the women's and children parks developed in KAECHS through the efforts of KAWWS. The project team also saw the green belts which were developed as part of the tree plantation drive of KAWWS. Sarah Siddiqui told the project team members how their organization had worked to improve the water supply, sewerage and drainage system in their locality and took them to a water pumping station constructed by the local officials due to pressure exerted by KAWWS members. The project team was also told about the organizational and management systems employed by KAWWS, to keep this citizen initiative running.

The project team also visited the office of the Health Officer, District Municipal Corporation (DMC) East and inquired about the solid waste management system employed by them. They were apprised by Mr. Akhtar Masood, Sanitary Inspector, about the difficulties faced by his staff due to financial constraints and lack of equipment. He later took the project team on a tour of his office and showed them the equipment and machinery used by the DMC East staff in managing the solid waste of the District. The project team also met with the staff members.

A meeting of the project team with the residents of the project area was arranged at the residence of Mr. Saud Ahmed Khan, Project Resource Person. Sabah Gailani of the project team made a presentation of the project objectives and methodology with the help of charts and other visual aids to the residents. The residents appreciated the efforts of the project team and expressed their keen willingness to actively involve themselves in the project activities. They also agreed to the idea of forming a "Residents Committee", to solve the problems of their locality on a sustained basis. □



Visits to KAWWS and DMC East offices