



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

—Margaret Mead

# SHEHRI

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## The Case for City Governments

As the debate over the shape and form of the revised metropolitan government structure in the country continues, *Dr. Kaiser Bengali* comes up with a framework for representative and effective city government structure for the large urban centres of Sindh, capable of being replicated in other urban concentrations of the country.

**K**arachi has been in a state of deep crises since the last decade and a half. The breakdown of basic civic services has deprived the citizens of the most essential necessities.

Water is the basic ingredient of life; but there are parts of the city where water is not available at all, or has not been supplied for months, or is supplied erratically. Irrespective of the regularity of water supply, the quality of water is poor and frequently mixed with sewage. The situation with respect to provision of electricity,

victim to the daily grind of acquiring essential services for survival.

These problems are a reflection of decay and collapse of the institutions of governance, particularly local governance. Governance structures continue to be colonial and deny the opportunity to the people to organize even their day to day lives according to their will.

Constitutionally, the state has a federal character; in actual fact, however, it is highly centralized.

The constituent units, i.e., provinces, are devoid of effective power and local governments are non-existent. Effective exercise of sovereignty and participation of the people in the affairs of the

state requires that decision making levels are within reach of the people to the maximum possible degree. While reforms are required in an array of areas, the over-centralization of the state stands as the crux of the problem,



The rising urban challenge: Skyline of Karachi

public transport, etc., is no different. On the other hand, the breakdown of law and order has resulted in daily incidence of dacoities and car snatchings and ethnic and sectarian violence. If a citizen survives the violence, he or she falls

### Proposed Reforms

The following minimum reforms are necessary through a constitutional amendment to alleviate the crisis.

1. Accord the Senate all powers available to the National Assembly, including the power to discuss and vote on money bills.
2. Abolish the Concurrent Legislative List, Part II of the Federal Legislative List and all provisions in Part I relating to taxes and duties except taxes on income, wealth and foreign trade.
3. Institute local governments, including city governments for cities, with executive, legislative and judicial arms, as the third and basic tier of the Federation.



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**EDITORIAL**

**A Nation in Waiting**

**O**ur beloved country Pakistan is yet again in the grip of a season of new experimentations and innovations in the art of national governance. The political process has been sidelined, period. A number of bureaus, task forces and advisory groups have sprung up and reforms and restructured mechanisms are being considered on a number of important issues related with the national development process.

Not much has come out as yet from these thought processes, which is understandable, as the rot had really set in and it will take some time to untangle the complex web of the number of contributory factors which have led to the present crisis of governance. The climb from the "rock bottom" status to the upper rungs of the prosperity ladder is yet a distant, though hopefully, not a futile dream.

The good intentions of the present government cannot and should not be doubted. However, given the unique opportunity which the present administration enjoys, for bringing about positive and lasting changes in the nations fortunes, hopes of an

expectant nation for radical, rather than cosmetic reforms should also be respected and duly reciprocated.

It is a time for bold decisions and fearless and surgical implementation of the same. The few which so shamelessly sit on the wealth and resources of the countless many, have to be forced to give up their immoral and unlawful hold on the nations riches. This will require fundamental restructuring of the governance and administrative frameworks of our politics, economy and development priorities along with the maintenance of a high level of tolerance and understanding in our social, ethnic and religious perceptions and actions. So, it is safe to assume that the government is fully aware, that it is an awesome responsibility and not a game for the faint hearted and half witted.

It is not difficult to achieve this goal, what is needed is good will and the courage to stand up and fight for what is right for the nation and not for any individual or group. It is doubtful, whether we can afford yet another miscarriage of faith.





with the answer lying in provincial and local autonomy. It is important to stress here that provincial autonomy is a necessary condition for local autonomy and that local autonomy cannot be introduced without first introducing provincial autonomy.

In the context of Sindh, the provincial assembly should enact the necessary legislation to the following end.

1. Establish an integrated metropolitan government in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur. The latter two should include all urban areas within an approximately 40 kilometer radius. Thus, Hyderabad will include Jamshoro, Kotri, Matiari, Tando Jam, etc.; and Sukkur will include Khairpur, Rohri, Shikarpur, etc.

The metropolitan governments should be headed by a Mayor, who should be elected directly by all voters in the metropolitan area. In effect, KMC, HMC and SMC should be upgraded to the status of the Metropolitan governments.

2. Transfer all civic agencies to the exclusive jurisdiction of respective metropolitan governments. In the context of Karachi, these include the Karachi Development Authority (KDA) [including the Building Control Authority and Traffic Engineering Bureau], Lyari Development Authority, Malir Development Authority, Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB), Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC), Road Transport Authority (RTA), Karachi Traffic Police, etc.

3. Transfer jurisdiction over (a) distribution of gas and telephones and (b) education and health in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur to the respective metropolitan governments.

**Proportional representation is essential to allow all (political, ethnic, religious, sectarian, etc.) minority groups to gain representation in the Council, so as to prevent the emergence of the dictatorship of the majority.**

4. Institute a metropolitan cabinet of secretaries, drawn from the respective metropolitan council, with each secretary responsible for one of the following departments: Housing, water and sewerage, sanitation and waste disposal, road and street lights, electricity and gas distribution, education and libraries, preventive and curative health, environmental control, public transport, culture and sports, parks and green belts, traffic police and traffic management, neighborhood security, small and micro enterprise development (for employment promotion), etc.

5. Institute Metropolitan Councils, elected on party basis on the principle of proportional representation. Proportional representation is essential to allow all (political, ethnic, religious, sectarian, etc.) minority groups to gain representation in the Council, so as to prevent the emergence of dictatorship of the majority.

6. Transfer property tax and motor vehicle tax bases to metropolitan governments.

7. Empower the metropolitan council to collect taxes, prepare development plans, and incur development and recurring expenditure in their respective jurisdictions, subject to Sindh government

**C-Pg. 1 (Reforms)**

4. Draw up a Local List, specifying subjects of exclusive control of local government units and place all local functions (e.g. land, housing, water, sewerage, sanitation, electricity and gas distribution, local roads, public transport, health, education, small and micro-enterprise development, agricultural extension, animal husbandry, and horticulture) on the Local List. □

auditing controls.

In order for the metropolitan governments to function effectively, the Mayor should be empowered to take necessary administrative actions.

However, it is necessary to build-in certain safeguards in order to prevent the Mayor's office from turning into a one person or one party autocracy. Thus, provisions must be made in the law for the Mayor's decision regarding key



Improving the quality of life: Foremost challenge



appointments and expenditures beyond a certain amount to be rectified by the respective metropolitan council.

8. Empower the Mayor to appoint, transfer, and remove all metropolitan secretaries and heads of civic agencies under metropolitan control, subject to Council approval. The Chief Metropolitan Secretary should be appointed by and be responsible to the Sindh government.

9. The Mayor should be empowered to authorize budgeted expenditure. However, expenditure above a certain level, even if budgeted, should be subject to approval by the Council.

10. The metropolitan areas should have a federated local government structure. For example, Karachi is currently divided into 5 district municipalities. However, there is no rationale for 5 municipalities or their current boundaries. The Karachi Development Authority's planning divisions for Karachi offer a more rational basis for creating zonal municipalities, on the basis of which there should be about 30 zonal municipalities in, say, Keamari, Lyari, SITE, Shershah, Manghopir, Orangi, Baldia, Pathan/Frontier Colony, Naz-

imabad, North Nazimabad, North Karachi, F.B. Area, Karimabad, Liaquatabad, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Landhi, Korangi, Malir, Old City, Societies Area, Clifton, Defence, etc.

Similarly, Hyderabad metropolitan area would have zonal municipalities in, say, Old City, Latifabad, Q a s i m a b a d, Jamshoro, Kotri, Tandojam, Matiari, etc., and Sukkur metropolitan area would have zonal municipalities in Sukkur Barrage Colony, Rohri, Shikarpur, etc.

The zonal municipalities should report to the metropolitan governments, within which functions and fiscal resources should be distributed according to standard urban management criteria. In general, the metropolitan governments should be responsible for bulk services and zonal municipalities for provision of services to households and within municipal jurisdiction. The chairmen of zonal

municipalities should also be directly elected and be similarly responsible to the respective municipal councils.

**The metropolitan areas should have a federated local government structure, For example, Karachi is currently divided into 5 district municipalities. However, there is no rationale for 5 municipalities or their current boundaries.**

The emergence of metropolitan governments in Hyderabad and Sukkur will lead to a more balanced regional growth and provide greater economic, employment, educational, etc., opportunities to the people of central and upper Sindh. An integrated metropolitan government in Karachi will lead to an improvement in

the quality of life of the citizens and an enhancement in the productive efficiency of the port city's industrial and commercial infrastructure; thereby, enabling Karachi to contribute more to Sindh's and the country's growth. □

*(Dr. Kaiser Bengali is one of the founder members of Shehri-CBE, a noted economist and Central Coordinator, Social Democratic Movement)*

## EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

**S**ustainable development in today's urbanizing world is increasingly dependent on the effective management of urban areas. While addressing the World Conference on Model Cities in Singapore, Klaus Toepfer, the acting executive director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) said that "an analysis of the UNCHS best practices has led us to conclude that urban development policies need to be inclusive, cooperative and people-centered to be effective. The empowerment of people by governments is the key to mobilizing latent resources, strengthening the effectiveness of local authorities and fos-

tering a more cooperative atmosphere among all urban resident". To support mayors and local authorities in their tasks, Habitat, in partnership with major international and regional associations of local authorities, has started to work on a World Charter of Local Self-Government. This Charter will provide an internationally agreed framework for a democratic local government system. The draft Charter will be passed through the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations for ultimate adoption by the UN General Assembly in 2001. □

*Source: UNCHS (Habitat)*





## ***SHEHRI ACTIVITIES***

### Panel Discussion

## “Strategies for Effective Local Governance”.

(Friday 19th November, 1999, Hotel Marriott, Karachi)

A Panel Discussion on the topic of “Local Governance”, was held by Shehri in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, in which people belonging to various sectors of the society such as political activists, government officials, academics, NGOs/CBO’s, business, media participated.

Mr. Umer Asghar Khan, Federal Minister for Local Government

aim, to contribute positively in the establishment of an effective and people friendly local government setup, capable of delivering upon its promises, plans and commitments to the public and with the active participation of the public.

Mr. Anwar said that Shehri’s work during the last ten years has led it to believe that the most effective political arena, which also ensures maximum level of meaningful civil



and Rural Development/Environment/Labour, chaired the session.

Mr. Farhan Anwar, Executive Member, Shehri-CBE, who moderated the session, introduced the guest speakers, which included Mr. Mirza Jawad Beg, Mr. Kaiser Bengali and Mr. Noman Ahmed.

Mr. Farhan Anwar said that the session signalled the start of a comprehensive and long term Shehri programme initiative, which would look into the issue of “local governance,” in all its varied aspects, forms and shapes. The

society participation and say on matters that effect them on a daily basis, is that which includes the institutions of local governance. These are the institutions which hold the key to lasting reforms leading to the hope of a better quality of life for the people.

Mr. Anwar also outlined some questions (see box) which he said that Shehri would like to put before the participants for consideration during the session.

Mr. Qazi Faez Isa, Chairperson, Shehri-CBE, gave an introduction

### Questions that need Answers

- The relevance of decentralized structures of local governance as opposed to centralized structures.
- Or should we go a step further on the road of decentralization to devolution of power to the lowest tiers of governance?
- The issue of local bodies elections. How can we ensure true representation of all segments of the society and protection of rights of minority groupings. Is there a need for electoral reforms?
- What can be the most workable and effective powers and functions sharing model between the federal, provincial and local tiers of governance?
- Equitable financing models for local government institutions. Powers to tax, revenue collection and generation etc.
- How can the issues of corruption, and technical/managerial inefficiency be tackled? Is there a need for enhanced salary/benefit slab structures for officials function-

Cont. next page



of Shehri and welcomed the inclusion of Mr. Umer Asghar Khan into the Federal Cabinet. He said that because of Mr. Khan's stated commitments towards important causes, much was expected of him.

**Mirza Jawad Beg**, a noted citizen activist who pioneered the concept of autonomous local govern-



**Mr. Fahim-uz-Zaman, Administrator KMC, talked about the financial constraints being faced by KMC which were hindering its functions**

nance in Pakistan in the early 70's and is the author of a book "*Shehri Hukoomat*", (City Government) was the first speaker. Mr. Beg said that he started thinking about this issue in 1968 and made a tour of the world to acquaint himself with the various types of local government systems in operation in major cities of the world.

He said that we have inherited the British system of governance, in which local governments were weak and we used to have all powerful governors at the provincial level. Today also, all powers rest with the provinces. We also have a strange situation that during democratic governments rule at the centre, we have weak local bodies, while the local bodies system becomes powerful when we have military rule.

Mr. Beg said that in large industrialized nations, city governments are very strong. In USA, even seaports and airports fall under the jurisdiction of local governments. In certain Japanese embassies, Tokyo Metropolitan government has its own desk, which even

deals with issues like tourism. He emphasized the importance of land control and said that we need to enforce local cadre system, whereby only a local citizen can get employment in his or her city's local government. Mr. Beg said that very few powers and functions of the state should remain with the federal and provincial governments, while most of the powers should be transferred at the local level.

**Dr. Kaiser Bengali**, a noted economist and co-ordinator of the Social Democratic Movement, who was the second speaker, said that while military governments support local government setups, no military government has ever established effective local governments.

Mr. Bengali called for immediate and extensive devolution of power to the local level. He called for the abolition of the post of Deputy Commissioners and the Ministry of Local Government at the Federal level. He also called for the demolition of KDA, whose functions should be given to



**Mr. Arif Hasan, a noted urban planner, stressed the importance of considering the ground realities and providing proper constitutional cover to any local government reforms**

KMC. He called for governance down to the lane and '*Mohalla*' level and said that Karachi should be further sub-divided into 20-25 local municipalities.

He called for changes in the electoral system and said that local governments should be elected on the basis of proportional repre-

*Cont.*

ing in larger urban metropolitan agencies, commensurate with the challenges they face. Should a threshold be identified for such categorization?

- How can the possibility of privatization of civic services be accommodated in our scheme of things or should this process be discouraged?
- How can local government institutions interact with the informal sector or should there be no interaction?
- What modes and mechanisms for citizen oversight and participation can we suggest to ensure maximum involvement of the civil society leading to better planning and greater transparency?
- And last but not the least, what are the areas for priority consideration for the local bodies in say a city like Karachi? □

sentation, while the Mayor should be elected directly and should have a cabinet.

**Mr. Noman Ahmed**, Co-ordinator, Urban Design Programme, who was the last speaker, recounted the historical development process of local government system in Karachi. He called for understanding the ground realities which exist in Karachi and the role, various formal and informal sectors of the society perform in running this city. Planning could only succeed if a proper evaluation of the existing situation was made.





After the conclusion of the speeches, Mr. Farhan Anwar opened the general debate session. Mr. Fahim-uz-Zaman, the Administrator of KMC was asked to initiate the discussion. Mr. Zaman discussed the technical



Mr. Navaid Husain of Shehri, proposed the restructuring of the local government taxation system to improve the financial position of civic bodies

and managerial problems being faced by KMC and mentioned the severe economic crisis that KMC is presently going through.

Mr. Arif Hasan called for a constitutional backup to any changes in the local government system, and urged the importance of understanding Karachi's problems before going for large scale changes.

Mr. A. K. Lodhi, a former beaurocrat, praised the initiatives undertaken by the present setup and called for guarding against the establishment of small power centers and empires while going for devolution.

Prof. Muhammad Nauman said that the existence of various kinds of mafias which control different aspects of local governance, is an important issue which will pose hurdles in the way of any kind of change in the status quo.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Umer Asghar Khan said that we need to redefine three key aspects of our governance system,

namely structure of the state, electoral system and modes of state-civil society interaction.

He said that it is also upto our civil society groups to decide for themselves as to how much they are in tune with the real problems of the common man.

Mr. Khan said that there is a need for analysing why citizen movements have failed in the past. He cited the example of the failure of the trade union movement in Pakistan.

He was hopeful that positive change would come but for that he said we need to create space and provide enabling legislation.

He said that we need to cut our costs. Presently, 350 people are employed in the his ministry, while the same work could probably be done better by

30-40 persons. He talked of reforming the taxation system with a more rational tax sharing formula between local and provincial/federal tiers of governance.

Mr. Khan said that reforms were needed in the electoral system. He defended his inclusion in the cabinet and said that the seven point agenda of the present government is not in conflict with his own convictions and beliefs.

In the end, Mr. Farhan Anwar gave

the vote of thanks and concluded the debate. □

**Mr. Umer Asghar Khan said that there is a need for analysing why citizen movements have failed in the past. He cited the example of the failure of the trade union movement in Pakistan.**



Mr. Umer Asghar Khan, Federal Minister, spelled out the broad based strategy being adopted by the present government to institute local government reforms in the country

**ISSUES WHICH RECEIVED A GENERAL CONSENSUS OF OPINION**

- Need to carefully assess ground realities and learn from past mistakes, to come up with realistic solutions, rather than adopting utopian concepts
- Need for Electoral Reforms
- Need for more powers and functions at the local level
- Need for meaningful citizen participation and accountability
- Need for a system of internal checks and balances to prevent the formation of small empires and control of small groups with vested interests. □





# Seminar “Strengthening the Judiciary”.

(Friday 3rd December, 1999, Hotel Marriott, Karachi)

A seminar was held on the topic of “Strengthening the Judiciary”, by Shehri-CBE/Friedrich Naumann Foundation in collaboration with the Helpline Trust and Citizens Police Liaison Committee (CPLC).

**Mr. Miftah Ismail** of the Helpline Trust, who acted as seminar coordinator, introduced the topic of the day and the guest speakers.

**Mr. Qazi Faez Isa**, a noted barrister of the city and Chairperson, Shehri-CBE was the first speaker. He said that one of the defining principle of Islam is “*Adl*” (Justice) which is being ignored in our society. Mr. Isa, regretted the fact that numerous concepts like “*Nizam-e-Mustafa*”, “*Shariat Courts*” have



**Mr. Miftah Ismail**  
of Helpline Trust, acted as Seminar Moderator

been employed, yet significant results have not been attained.

He stressed the need of identifying correctly, the faults within the system and said that one area of priority concern is judicial education.

He said that in our country, law is both taught and studied “*part-time*”. You can work in the day and study law in the evening. Mr. Isa said that in England, where he had



(L - R) Qazi Faez Isa, Abul Inam, Shaig Usmani, Jameel Yousuf

studied law, one has to sign a declaration that he or she is not employed anywhere while studying law.

He lamented the fact that no proper academic standards or criteria are followed in our law colleges. He cited the fact that in Law College Quetta alone, 700 students are enrolled at a time, while in the whole of England, only 1100 seats are available, catering both to local and foreign students.

Mr. Isa raised an interesting issue when he said that while all the laws/reports are available only in the English language in Pakistan, one can get a law degree while studying in Urdu!

Mr. Isa said that there is a culture of litigation in Pakistan. He objected to the setting up of “*special courts*”, and suggested that instead, the efficiency of the regular courts should be improved.

He said that in our country, Attorney Generals are politically appointed persons, which is

wrong. He also said that the posts of Attorney General and Law Minister cannot be held by the same person, such as is presently the case.

Also, persons holding such sensitive posts should be barred from having private legal practice.

Mr. Isa was critical of the law that said that a Supreme Courts judge’s retiring age should be 65, while that of a High Court judge be 62. He said that both should be the same.

**Mr. Jameel Yousuf** spoke of CPLC’s experiences of dealing with the judiciary. He said that the judicial system should also be fully accountable to the society for their actions.

Mr. Yousuf felt that there was a need of redefining the law of “*Contempt*”, similarly be suggested changes in the law of “*Defamation*”, which he felt had not delivered the required results.

He lamented the fact that 80% of





the kidnappers caught with the help of CPLC were later acquitted by the Courts on seemingly bizarre interpretation of the existing laws. He cited a few specific cases in this regard.

He said that the judiciary needs to take "Suo Moto" action on issues like "pillion riding", to ease the problems of the general public.

Mr. Shaiq Usmani, a former judge of the Sindh High Court said that we need to understand that judiciary is part of our system. He said that this same judicial system worked very well under the British because then, the courts were impartial. However, soon after independence, when Ghulam Mohammad sacked the government, the executive was brought into direct conflict with the judiciary. he regretted the fact that since that time, this confrontation has continued with disastrous consequences.

Mr. Usmani asked as to which judiciary in the world has to decide every two years, whether the government should stay in power or not!

He regretted the fact that the executive has always gone after the throat of the judiciary to toe their line and this process recently culminated in the storming of the



(L-R) Mr. Nazim Haji, General Secretary, The Reformers and Mr. Roland de'Souza of Shehri talked about the importance of citizen involvement and activism to ensure good governance

Supreme Court.

Mr. Usmani suggested that our courts need to be financially autonomous and particularly the working conditions in the lower courts need to be improved. He said that our civil court procedures, in practice since 1868, when Lord MacCauly first penned them, need to be changed. In this connection he cited the "Wolf Report", which has completely changed the civil procedures system in England, implemented only last year, as a model for the required changes in Pakistan.

changed the civil procedures system in England, implemented only last year, as a model for the required changes in Pakistan.

Mr. Usmani said that there is too much litigation in Pakistan. His personal experience suggested that 50% cases are of frivolous nature and can easily be resolved through some system of pre-trial meetings.

He also suggested that we should have "constitutional courts", to hear cases of executive nature.

In order to save time, he suggested doing away with the system of "Detailed Reasoned Judgements". He said that in Western countries you normally come across one page judgements.

Mr. Abul Inam, President, of the Sindh High Court Bar Association said that there is no bar on anybody from commenting on the judgements of the courts. Mr. Inam said that we need to be very clear that our system is based upon the requirements of the "law", and not that of "equity".

he admitted the fact that the system had many shortcomings. In this connection, he cited the system of enrollment of advocates.

He suggested the formation of a "Permanent Judicial Commission", to suggest amendments in the law wherever required. He also said, that we need to cultivate among the public a culture for the respect of law.

After the conclusion of the speeches, a lively question and answer session took place in which various important issues related with the topic of the day were covered.

In the end, Mr. Qazi Faez Isa gave the vote of thanks. □



# Workshop “Youth & Civil Society-II”

(Sunday, 5th December, 1999, Hotel Marriott, Karachi)

An interactive workshop for students belonging to various higher level educational institutes of Karachi was held by Shehri, in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

This workshop was part of the recent initiative undertaken by Shehri to involve the educated youth of the city in working for the establishment of a better civil society in the country.

The format of the workshop was interactive. Participating students were given an introductory brief by Mr. Farhan Anwar, Executive Member, Shehri-CBE, who acted as Workshop Moderator. Three topics were chosen for discussion during the workshop.

- *State of the Economy*
- *Establishment of True Democracy*
- *Protection of Human Rights*

In small working groups, the students were asked to discuss among themselves, the relevance of these issues within the context of the Pakistani society, the associated problems and the impact they were having on the lives of the

common Pakistani. The students were also asked to come up with some guidelines and strategies to overcome the crisis associated with these issues.

The findings of the group work sessions were documented on presentation boards and were later presented to the plenary session.

## Group 1 State of the Economy

The first group was of the view that Pakistan was a resource rich country and the main problem was that small and powerful groups control the destiny of the nation, as a result of which the wealth of the nation is accumulated in very few hands.

The group emphasised the importance of self reliance and stressed the need of stopping the uncontrolled flow of money from the country. Similarly, the group felt that there was a need of stopping the “Brain Drain”, problem. Instead, educated and resourceful Pakistanis living abroad needed to be lured back to the country to contribute in the nation building process.



Mr. Farhan Anwar acted as workshop moderator

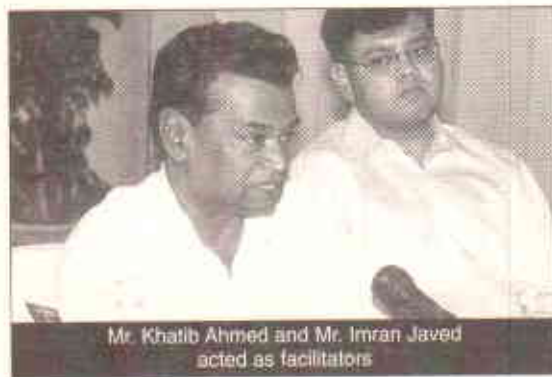
The group felt that we needed to invest in alternate and hitherto untapped sources of revenue generation e.g. by, developing the “Tourism Industry” Pakistan was rich in scenic and historical sites which needed to be preserved and developed as world class tourist attractions. Similarly, local arts and crafts needed promotion.



The group also felt that there was room for developing a greater market for our products within our own country and the gap between our export earnings and import bills had to be rationalized.

## Group 2 Establishment of True Democracy

The group gave a detailed analysis of the various types of government and ruling systems, Pakistan has



Mr. Khatib Ahmed and Mr. Imran Javed acted as facilitators





witnessed in its short history and then discussed the options available for the future.

The group felt that parliamentary democratic system offered the best hope for Pakistan. However, the prerequisites for establishing such a system were not fully in place at present. A major inhibiting factor being the issue of mass illiteracy.

The group emphasised the impor-



tance of having in place a proper system of checks and balances to ensure transparency in functions and harmonious working relationship between all pillars of the state.

They cited the recent example of the Washington Accord, where the then Prime Minister, signed a document having grave strategic repercussions for our country without taking the parliament, the opposition or the public in confidence.

The group also discussed the importance of bringing about electoral reforms to have a better chance of getting true representatives of the people into the assemblies.

### Group 3 Protection of Human Rights

The group felt that in our society we are conditioned right from our very childhood into believing that girls and boys have very different tasks in life. The group was of the

opinion that parents are responsible, due to our own peculiar societal, cultural



trends for this conditioning of children.

The group regretted the fact that individuality is discouraged in our society, while people feel comfortable with a conformist attitude.

They opined that there are various manifestations of the human rights problem in our country. There is



The group strongly felt that we need to have a more free and open society where people are allowed to create their own space.

The group presentations were interactive as the presenters were asked to explain various aspects of their presentations by the participants.

Later, a collective interaction exercise was undertaken in which all the participating students were asked to give their opinion on which sectors of the national development process should be managed by the various agents of change i.e. the government, the private sector, the NGO/CBO or in

WHO SHOULD DO WHAT?					
Problem Zones	Agents of Change				
	Governeemnt	Private	NGO/CBO	Govt./Pvt.	Govt./NGO
Infrastructure	•• ••	•		•• ••	
Education	•• ••	•• ••		•• •	•
Unemployment	•• ••	•		•• ••	•
Pollution	•	•		•• •• •	•• ••

religious segregation, law enforcers are not people friendly. Abuse of basic human rights takes place everyday in the "Khabarna-ma" on Pakistan Television. We have such laws as the "Hudood Ordinance", which many feel, discriminate against women.

partnerships between these sectors.

In the end, Mr. Farhan Anwar outlined for the students, a tentative program of Shehri for youth participation in the year 2000. □



## SHEHRI ALERT

### Another Glass Towers?

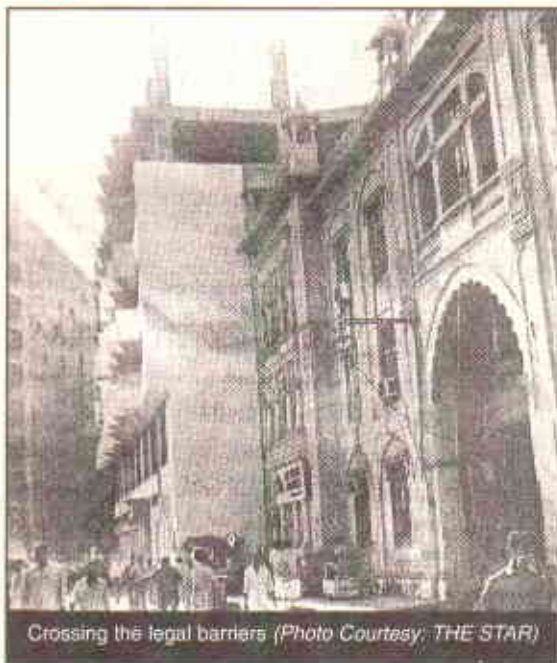
Part of the International Trade Centre is being constructed on road widening cutline off I. I. Chundrigar Road. This is just one of the many irregularities associated with this construction project. *Shehri* raises a timely alert.

**I**nternational Trade Centre on Plot 10/2/SR-2 in Serai Quarters has the makings of a cause celebre. The KMC, vide Resolution No. 327 of 11-6-34, notified widening of Nichol Road from 30 feet to 50 feet, with 10 feet cut-lines on both sides. As shown on KMC Part Plan No. 352 dated 30-10-35, the 10 foot strip in

changed hands many times, and finally came into the possession of S.M. Ilyas s/o S.M. Iqbal and Aziz Ahmed s/o S. M. Anwar through an award dated 26-6-70 of the High Court of Sindh & Balochistan in suit 348/70. The relinquishment deed was registered in 1996. To avoid payment of stamp duties and taxes, rights to the property have been further transferred on the basis of an Irrevocable Power of Attorney.

The builders, holding the Power of Attorney, are M. Ibrahim Habib s/o M. Suleiman Habib and Hanif Aziz s/o Abdul Aziz, under the name

"S.M. Builders." They are well-connected and have constructed or are constructing a number of other illegal buildings, including "Al-Faisal Shopping Mall" (Plot 171-A/3, Sir Syed Road, (PECHS), "Commercial Complex" (Plot 40/3, Tariq Road, Delhi Mercantile CHS) which is attempting to encroach on the Jheel Park amenity plot,



front of adjacent Plot 10/1/SR-2 (Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, then known as the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association) was acquired by KMC, and the 10 foot strip in front of Plot 10/2/SR-2 was shown as "Area to be Acquired."

Plot 10/2/SR-2, on which 2 story godowns were built,

## BREAKING EVERY LEGAL BARRIER

### Violations of Law by KBCA while Approving Plan

- Plan Approved on KMC cut-line OFF Nicol Road.
- Steps not provided in ground floor shops (These cannot be provided on public road).
- Height of 10' (instead of 8') approved for parking floor, which is liable to misuse (floor will be converted into office use).
- Steep car-ramp of 1:6 provided (instead of standard 1:8 or 1:10).
- The 1:6 plot ratio has been extended over G, 1 and 5th - 11th in a "tubular" structure. This is uneconomical and it is obvious that the builder plans to violate the central open space and construct additional built-up area hidden from the public view (he had already started to do so in June '98 when Shehri raised a hue & cry). The sizes of the central columns under the "open-to-sky" space show this.
- The area calculation is not as per approved plan. Basement area of 13,506,25 sqft was not included in the covered area calculation.

### Violations of Approved Plan & Regulations by the Builder

- NOCs of utility agencies not provided.