



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

—Margaret Mead

# SHEHRI

APRIL - JUNE 1998 Vol. 8/No. 2

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## Environmental Concerns Front Page News?

**Dhunmai Cowasjee** calls for a better understanding of environmental concerns and sustainable development needs among environmental reporters and asks decision makers in the media to accord environmental news the importance it deserves.

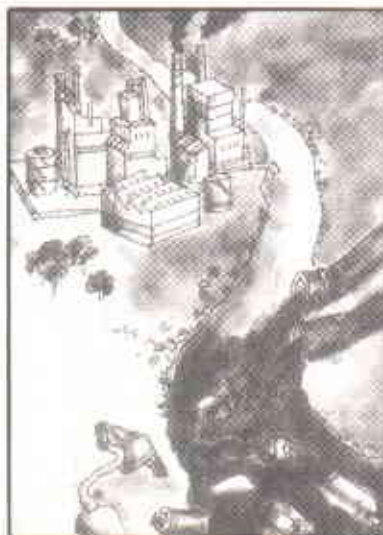
**T**here are several challenges that face the environmental movement in Pakistan: lack of adequate legislation, lack of implementation mechanisms, lack of political will. But the biggest bogie of them all is lack of understanding of the issues and lack of public support and this is where the media comes in. The challenge for the media is to build public awareness, understanding and support for the environment in a country where the majority of people are faced with more immediate problems of clean water, food and shelter. Show the people the link between the environment and their own lives and livelihood.

But to do this, the media itself has to be convinced of the importance of environmental news. The opinion makers within the media have to 'buy in' so that environmental news makes it to the front page, or is the lead news on radio or television. Today, in 1998, there is more environmental coverage than ever before, but how many times has the environment been the main news item? Very little, because editors and sub-editors

see politics as the most important news, and the best reporters are assigned this beat. And yet, recently, we had a leading columnist write that if you look at the headlines today and in the past 10 years, you will not be able to distinguish between today's and yesterday's news or between the people who said them. It is this mindset, that politics is news and that any other issue is not important news that we have failed to change.

We have to convince those who decide what is printed, broadcast or telecast that environment is not a fad nor merely a western idea, that there is a direct link between environment and poverty, between environment and people's livelihood, and how environmental degradation impacts on people. Not all the media feels

like this - there are many good journalists reporting on the environment but the will to place that news on the front pages is lacking. So often it happens that a piece is written only to be chopped and put on the city or back pages.



Environmental degradation: a chain of deadly disasters, but who is reporting?

At first the environmental movement did have a limited view: preserve charismatic species like the African elephant or the Bengal Tiger. But this approach changed as there was a realisation that these animals could not be divorced from the environment they live in - just as

people cannot be delinked from the environment they live in. So from preserve it went to conserve. But the main breakthrough in thinking came in 1980, with the publication of the World Conservation Strategy - a seminal docu-



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## EDITORIAL

### *A Nation in Mourning*

"Sustainable Development", is a term much favoured by environmental and development analysts while describing a desirable process of growth. Explained in the simplest of terms it implies the use of resources in such a way that they can sustain not only our growth but that of our future generations without being depleted and exhausted along the way. Looking at our present pathetic and humiliating financial straits, it seems as if this development philosophy never reached our shores. One feels shamed, disgraced and disgusted at the contents of the explanations on offer and on the remedies being proposed by our "leaders" and financial custodians - sanctions, IMF/World Bank dictates, enemy conspiracies being among the more popular ones. Quite frankly, none of the above can be blamed. The crisis is but a natural outcome of years of loot, plunder and shameful neglect of duty and national honour by those that govern us - both administratively and politically. It is the contemptuous legacy of a long list of egomaniacs, past and present, masquerading as national leaders, who never missed an opportunity to place concerns of personal aggrandizement above (and at the cost of) national duty. We are a nation in perpetual mourning - even the tears have now dried up.

ment by IUCN, WWF and UNEP - that coined the phrase "*sustainable development*", development in a way that ensures that natural resources are used but are still available for future generations.

That conservation was not the opposite of development and that it could not be achieved without alleviating the poverty of millions of people. That brought about the link between environmental issues and economic survival. Conservation has a place, but it occupies a much smaller space and the emphasis is on sustainable develop-

ment.

Let's take a look at the link between environment and development.

- Fish catch, and particularly shrimp, harvested from the sea is decreasing - with a consequent decrease in valuable export earnings.

- Pakistan has lost 45 million

hectares of its land to desertification - this land is no longer available to farmers for agriculture or grazing lands.



Polluting our seas:  
Should this not constitute  
front page news?

- Prime agricultural land around Lahore is being gobbled up for urban use - so the the best quality land is going out of use for food production.

- Little to none industrial waste water or domestic sewage in the country is being treated - this waste water is the major culprit behind the spread of water borne diseases that account for

approximately 60% of infant deaths.

- Tarbela dam's life expectancy has dropped from 100 years to 55 years - the reason? Siltation because of poor watershed management and this will have an enormous impact on irrigation and hydel power, and be a hidden economic cost for the country.





- Quetta's water is supplied by its underground watertable – with water being extracted faster than it is being replenished. In another 5-10 years, this water will be gone.

All these are environmental issues and yet they impact on development and on people and their source of income. Media people have to come to this understanding, that environmental issues need little 'packaging' to be interesting. They are about people and their lives and this, after all, is more interesting reading than the speeches of our political personalities.

If there is agreement that environmental reporting is necessary, then the next issue is understanding the subject. The environment spans many disciplines; some of its concepts are scientific concepts that need to be explained in simple terms; and they cover local, national and global issues.

- A wide range of subjects come under the term sustainable development, anywhere from legislation to urban migration. Under legislation, you need to have an idea of environmental legislation such as the 'Pakistan Environmental Protection Act' of 1997 to the laws that affect the environment that can be found under forestry, fisheries, irrigation, agriculture and mining legislation. Or about international conventions. Or that one of the reasons for urban migration can be salinity and waterlogging that force small farmers off the land. It can be an understanding of indigenous practices such as the *Hurri* or acacia plantations in Sindh that helped maintain soil fertility or the karezes of Baluchistan that helped carry water for upto 20 miles without pumps or pipes and without losing water to

evaporation.

- Scientific terms need to be simply explained. For example, genetic diversity that means that each living creature contains information that will determine what it is, and this information is within its genes. Genetic variety is important and especially for agriculture for it allows scientists to develop new varieties of food crops such as wheat that can be pest resistant or produce more per acre.

- How it is a global subject. Look at the example of global warming, greenhouse gases and the ozone layer. Plenty has been written about it but from a western orientation. There is little understanding of how they affect Pakistan. If the earth's temperature increases even slightly, one effect can be increased snow melt in the northern areas and the greater chances of floods in the Punjab.

Environmental reporting needs to be seen in two ways. In the first instance, reporters need to have a general understanding of the issues. And second, there is the need for journalists who have more in depth knowledge of the subject. As long as there is awareness, then many more people can begin to report on a variety of issues, gaining expertise as they go along. This is vital in a country like Pakistan, where people in the media come from a variety of backgrounds.

There is a need for analysis of

**Media people have to come to this understanding, that environmental issues need little 'packaging' to be interesting. They are about people and their lives and this, after all, is more interesting reading than the speeches of our political personalities.**

news: as more and more land is lost to salinity and waterlogging and desertification, less and less land is available for agriculture and for food crops. What this means for Pakistan and its rapidly growing population is a food crisis. Last year we had the example of a wheat crisis, and we are in a situation where we have gone from being a wheat-exporting nation to a wheat-importing nation.

Once this analysis starts happening, then reporting will become more focused and capable

of evoking a response. Take the case of the Indus Highway. Conceived in the early 1970s the Highway was to link Karachi to the Northern Areas. It came to the forefront in 1991, when a section from Nuriabad to Sehwan was to be constructed through Kirthar National Park. Public pressure eventually led to rerouting the road along the Park boundary. In this case, it was the press that drew attention to the issue, the press that kept the issue alive in the papers in the several months it took for a decision to be made. It was the editorials in the press and the letters to the editor that led to signature campaigns and public litigation by two NGOs.

Kirthar was important for another reason also. The decision to reroute the highway was taken by the then Prime Minister. It was a decision taken at the highest political level without any repercussions for individuals. This was because the national press took this up as an issue; it was written



about by a number of newspapers in the English, Urdu and Sindhi press; and it was backed by a number of NGOs who both raised public awareness and took the issue to court. This does not mean that every issue has to have such a high profile but that on a particularly contentious and political issue, many counter forces have to be at work.

What also needs to be drawn out is the benefits of looking at environmental issues. An example is IUCN's biodiversity project in the Northern Areas and the NWFP.

Rural communities are receiving technical help to draw up natural resource management plans that meet their own development needs. These plans are being developed with the support of the local government and have a dual purpose: economic development through the sustainable use of natural resources.

We need to expand our vision to development reporting. Right now environmental organisations are focussing on environmental issues, women's organisations on women's issues and human rights

organisations on human rights. But all these are linked. A clean environment is a human right, women use the environment and a degraded environment means more time spent on fetching fuelwood and water and being exposed to agricultural chemicals in the fields. We need to combine our energies and look at development reporting and to these issues, for it is these issues that would help us improve our people's lives. □

*(Dhunmai Cowasjee is Acting Programme Director, Communications Unit, IUCN, Pakistan)*

## In memory of those who brought environmental news to the front pages

*The year 1993 was unfortunate for the environmental movement in Pakistan in that we lost two extremely talented, energetic and brave young ladies - Ameneh Azam Ali and Zulekha Ali. 5 years down the road, Shehri pays tribute to those brave souls and hopes that their mission is carried forward with the same zeal, professionalism and commitment by those that follow in their footsteps.*

### Ameneh Azam Ali (1955-1993)

Ameneh's first base was the Herald, where due to her efforts and commitment, the Herald became the first publication in Pakistan to carry a special section on the environment. She specialized in research reporting and did extensive work on the issue of deforestation, in the areas of Swat and Malakand. She was also in a sense, a pioneer in the field of urban development reporting. Her work on the Lines Area Project won her much acclaim. Her article "Apocalypse Now" on the urban crisis in Sindh won her an All Pakistan Newspapers Society Award.



In 1989 she joined the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme to work on women and development issues, in the Women in Development (WID) programme in Gilgit, a programme she was associated with till her death.

### Zulekha Ali (1969 - 1993)

Zulekha's stint as an environmental journalist, working with the News Karachi was extremely brief, yet she achieved in those few years more than many journalists may take a lifetime to achieve. She was a lively soul who

touched everybody with her boundless energy and commitment towards her profession - showing a level of maturity far beyond her years. Like a good journalist, she had a sense and feel for a real story. Her writeup on the "Toxic Dumps" case made headline news. □



She did not live long enough to receive any awards during her lifetime. However, posthumously, she was awarded the "Global 500 Youth Environment Award" of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in recognition of outstanding, practical achievement in the protection and improvement of the environment, on World Environment Day in London (1994). Posthumously, she was also awarded the "Sitara-e-Shujaat" by the President of Pakistan on 23rd March 1994 for saving her friend Natasha from drowning, an act of extreme valour which also cost her life and deprived the country of a promising young potential. □

*May their souls rest in peace - Amen.*

### A MOTHER REMEMBERS

Zulekha Ali was born on April 3, 1969, in England. She loved animals from the time when she was very small. Once she jumped into a pool, to save a small puppy from drowning, when only four. Zulekha had a natural way with all pets. She loved people and life itself. Couldn't see anyone in pain, and tried to squeeze as much as possible into her 24 hour day. Environment was her passion - best daughter, sister and friend in the world.

*This piece was written specially for Shehri by Ms. Ali Nawaz, mother of Zulekha Ali.*



## SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

### Eighth Annual General Meeting – Shehri-CBE

**T**he eighth annual general meeting of Shehri was held at the Shehri office on Saturday, May 23rd 1998.

**Mr. Qazi Faez Isa**, Chairman Shehri-CBE, discussed in detail about the projects and activities carried out by Shehri during the year 1997. These included the KBCA workshops, seminar on the state of municipal services in Karachi and an evening with Shehri (Fund Raiser).

Also highlighted were the activities of various sub-committees of Shehri and the projects carried out by them such as the Citizens Guide Book on Solid Waste Management, Environmental Impact Study on the issue of land use conversion and the Karachi Guide-book Project (ongoing).

Members were also informed about Shehri's ongoing tree plantation campaign and its participation in KMC's 'Adopt a Park' scheme.

Mr. Isa paid rich tributes to the contribution of Mr. Navaid Husain towards the cause of Shehri and for the betterment of this city and deplored the murderous attack on his life, which took place last year. He expressed his satisfaction at Shehri's achievements, called for greater input from members and praised the Shehri staff and members for giving their valued time and commitment to the democratic traditions of the organization.

**Ms. Amber Alibhai**, General Secretary Shehri, proposed that the minutes of last years meeting be



L-R: Qazi Faez Isa, Chairman Shehri, and Amber Ali Bhai, General Secretary, Shehri

adopted. This was seconded by Shehri member Mr. Farooq Fazal.

The audit report for the year 1997 was presented by **Mr. Khatib Ahmed**, the Treasurer, Shehri. The motion for adoption of Shehri's annual report for the year 1997 was moved by Ms. Azra Aqil, a Shehri member and seconded by another Shehri member, Dr. Gardezi.

**Mr. Roland de'Souza**, member Legal Sub-Committee, Shehri, spoke on the occasion and called upon the Shehri members and the citizens at large to give more time and money for projects and causes aimed at improving the living conditions of the residents of the city.

**Mr. Farooq Fazal** and **Ms. Raffat Rasheed ul Haq**, members of Shehri, also spoke on the occasion. They praised and appreciated the work of Shehri and called for expanding its activities. They also urged their fellow members to devote more time and energy towards solving the problems of the city. □



L-R: Khatib Ahmed, Treasurer Shehri and Roland de'Souza, member legal sub-committee, Shehri



The participants showed a keen interest in the performance of Shehri



## Seminar on "The environmental challenge in Pakistan: Role of media"

A seminar on "The environmental challenge in Pakistan: Role of media" was organized by Shehri-CBE in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, on the 2nd of May, 1998 at the Hotel Marriott, Karachi.

**Mr. Farhan Anwar**, Editor, Shehri-Newsletter, who also conducted the seminar proceedings, gave a brief introduction on the need and objectives of the seminar. He stressed the importance of identifying the problems being faced by environmental print journalists and people related with the electronic media in pursuing their work and enhancing the quality of their production. Mr. Anwar, while expressing dissatisfaction with the present state of environmental journalism in the country, touched upon the need of accord- ing a special status to environmental journalism and asked the speakers and participants to come forward with practical suggestions to improve the present condition.

**Ms. Dhumnai Cowasjee**, Acting Programme Director, Communication Unit, IUCN Pakistan, said that the basic duty of environmental journalists was to raise public awareness among the people on

the importance of the issue of environmental preservation and its vital link with their daily lives and nations overall development process. She felt that it was upto the decision makers in the print media to realize the importance of the issue and to make it "headline news".

Ms. Cowasjee provided various facts and figures to highlight the strong link between environment

journalism in Pakistan with particular reference to the electronic media. She felt that successive governments in Pakistan, particularly the last martial law government did not practice media friendly policies which inhibited the growth of free press in the country. Another serious inhibiting factor has been the absence of a proper communication policy which could have provided greater autonomy to the media.



The media was well represented in the seminar.

Ms. Pasha said that our National Conservation Strategy (NCS) should now be followed by a communication strategy. She regretted the fact that while in the developed world, innovative scientific and analytical approaches are being applied to make media more

and development. She stressed the need of objective analysis and a broadening of the focus from environmental reporting to development reporting and cited the examples of the Indus Highway and Kirthar National Park projects as cases of successful journalistic campaigns.

**Ms. Shireen Pasha**, Chief Executive, "Film Makers", gave a historical perspective of environmental

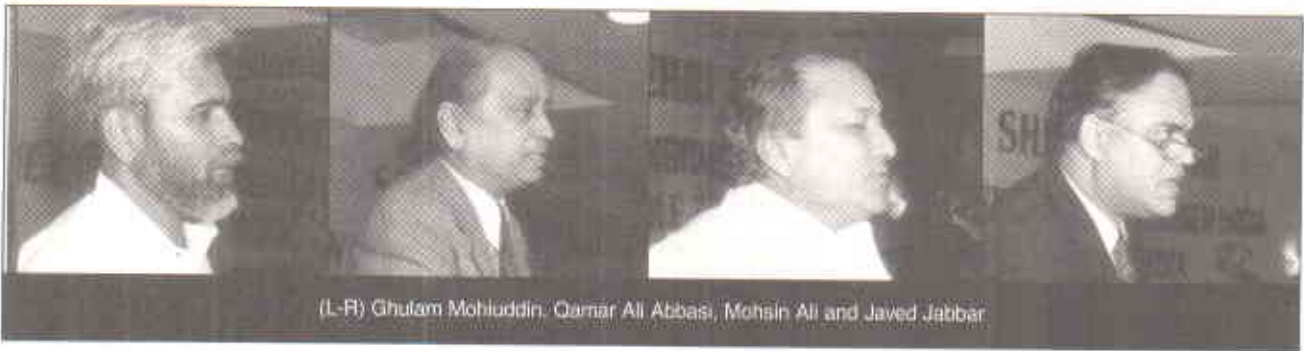
reflective of the needs and requirements of the people, no such process is underway in our country, where media is not dealing with real issues and the reporter have mostly lost touch with the people.

She urged the need of introducing good dramas dealing with real and live issues. She regretted that dramas have gained a monotony, projecting similar issues and



(L-R) Farhan Anwar, Dhumnai, Cowasjee, Shireen Pasha and Azra Syed





(L-R) Ghulam Mohiuddin, Qamar Ali Abbasi, Mohsin Ali and Javed Jabbar

characters. Environmental, development and social issues need to be effectively tackled via dramas through extensive research and analytical input.

**Ms. Azra Syed**, environmental reporter, The News, Karachi, emphasised the need of better training facilities for environmental journalists. She also felt that environmental news should be projected more prominently to achieve greater impact. She felt that poverty was the basic root cause and all other issues are related to this main problem.

**Mr. Ghulam Mohiuddin**, Feature Writer, Daily Jang, Karachi, said that it is upto the decision makers in the media business to accord environmental news the importance it deserves. Improvement in the quality of work will certainly follow suit. He said that the Urdu press was rendering a valuable contribution towards the cause of environmental preservation. He highlighted the gravity of the situation and said that even in a large urban centre like Karachi, there were many localities in which people were living in extremely sub-human conditions, deprived of all the basic services of life.

**Mr. Qamar Ali Abbasi**, Station Director, Radio Pakistan, in his characteristic humorous style touched upon various serious subjects. He said in our country the crisis was so severe that even

in the urban areas people were enjoying a quality of life close to village life when compared with the developed nations of the world. He informed the participants about the constructive and important role, Radio Pakistan was playing in raising awareness and consciousness of the people on the issue. He felt that a greater resolve and sensitivity has to be exhibited by us if we are to effectively tackle this grave challenge.

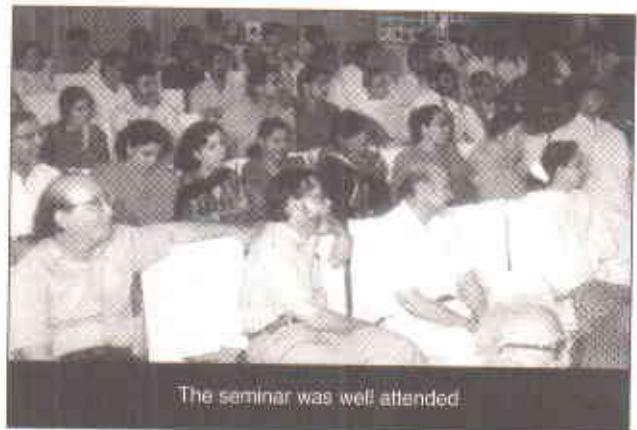
**Mr. Mohsin Ali**, General Manager, Pakistan Television, Karachi Centre, said that the initial team of television professionals were committed to their profession, enjoyed their work and took it as a mission. Now all that has changed for the worse. He regretted that documentaries, which are an effective way of highlighting environmental and developmental issues are not receiving due priority in PTV policies these days. He expressed the need of reviewing documentaries, in which PTV had in the past gained international acclaim.

Mr. Ali felt that insufficient funds were also a constraint. In this connection, he felt that increased level of private sector involvement and sponsorships can help in improv-

ing the situation.

Mr. Mohsin Ali, praised the initiative taken by Shehri and asked the Shehri members to assist PTV in planning strategies for improving the quality of environmental news coverage and reporting in PTV.

**Mr. Javed Jabbar**, Founding Chairman, South Asia Media Association, who presided over the seminar proceedings, in his concluding remarks appreciated and lauded the role of Shehri in raising debates on important and pressing issues. Mr. Jabbar said that although data collection process on such issues was now better than before, proper and objective analysis was missing. He also regretted the absence of media monitoring within newspapers. In this connection he suggested the formation of a "Citizens Media Commission" to monitor the role of the media. He also proposed the formation of a "Media Environment Forum".



The seminar was well attended.



Mr. Jabbar emphasised the importance of Radio, due to its mass and grass root level reach. He stressed the need of revitalizing the role of documentaries. He felt that it was very important to carefully and realistically analyze the scope and impact of the media in influencing public opinion. In this context he

gave examples of "No smoking campaign" in USA and "Nuclear Disarmament" campaign in Europe, which despite the universal appeal of the issues failed to achieve the desired results.

He also expressed the need of opening up the media sector to pri-

ivate initiative. In this context he informed that there were 1300 radio stations in Turkey.

The speeches were followed by a question answer session, following which Mr. Farhan Anwar gave the vote of thanks and concluded the seminar. □

## **Shehri attends seminar on "The development of Asian municipalities and the role of private initiative and civic participation - Limited government and civil society in the context of megalopolis development in Asia"** (Colombo, Sri Lanka, May 29 - June 3, 1998)

**T**he purpose of this seminar, organized by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation was to bring a greater understanding between citizen representatives of various Asian countries on issues of civic governance, role of civic organization and civic society, in the light of their own varied experiences, which they shared during the course of the seminar.

The seminar participants were drawn from FNF partner groups from Pakistan, India, Nepal and Thailand.

The Pakistani delegation was represented by Farhan Anwar, Victoria de'Souza, Muhammad Nauman of Shehri, Jameel Yousuf of Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) and Kaiser Bengali of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

These groups were to interact with the officials of the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) including the Mayor of Colombo, Mr. Deshbandu Karu Jayasuriya. This activity included group discus-

sions, visual presentations and field visits to the Colombo Municipal Council and to the various projects of the CMC.

The purpose of the whole exercise was to give advise to the Mayor on

faced by the cities of Mumbai and Karachi.

It was felt that the city government should be as independent and free from central control in its financial and administrative functions as possible to improve its efficiency. The participants also agreed that an increased level of citizen involvement in civic affairs is needed to bring transparency in the functions of the civic bodies and also in order to share their load.

However, participants differed over whether this role should be institutionalized or not. Solid waste

management was considered to be an issue of prime concern and most groups felt dissatisfied with the way it was being handled by their civic bodies. It was also an area of civic governance which was identified as having maximum potential for private sector and citizen involvement.

The issue of privatization was discussed in great detail and it was felt that although such a process



The participants of the workshop with the Mayor of Colombo and staff of Colombo Municipal Council

various civic issues, particularly with reference to the CMC's recently launched privatization programme.

The issues that were discussed during the seminar related to the technical, administrative, legal and political aspects of civic governance. Many similarities were observed between the experiences of various Asian cities, particularly between the challenges being





A City Watch meeting in session at the Mayor's residence. Workshop participants attended the meeting as observers



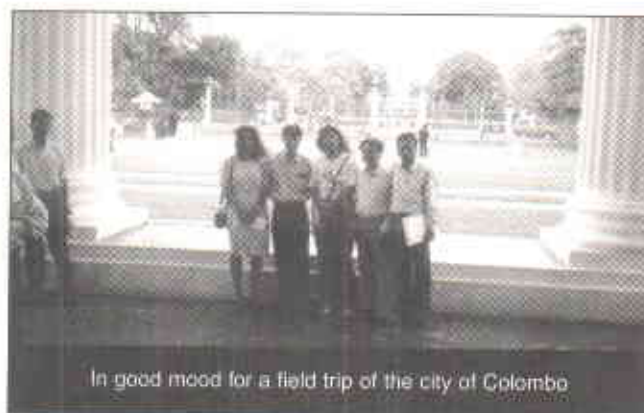
Final preparations before a group presentation

was the need of the hour, it has to be accompanied with strong regulatory setups to protect public interest.

The municipal council of Colombo has initiated a privatization programme which involves the privatization of the solid waste management system with emphasis on composting (83% of the garbage generated in Colombo city is organic in nature). A landfill site is also being developed. Private sector is also being involved in urban traffic management and health care schemes.

The steps taken by CMC for the betterment of the living conditions in Colombo city under the able guidance of the Mayor Mr. Jaysuriya were greatly appreciated by all the participants of the seminar

Dr. Rainer Adam, Regional representative South Asia, FNF, conducted the seminar proceedings, while Ms. Sagarica Delgoda, Country Representative FNF, Sri Lanka acted as the host and facilitator. □



In good mood for a field trip of the city of Colombo

## Update on "Shehri Park"

**A**s was informed in the last newsletter, Shehri participated in Karachi Metropolitan Corporations "Adopt a Park" scheme and adopted a park (ST12, Block No. 5 Scheme-5, Clifton, Karachi) for development and maintenance.

Shehri's **Imran Javed** is presently coordinating the parks development programme. The site of the undeveloped park has been properly leveled and 70% of the park area has been cleaned. A major problem that has been encountered is that sewage lines which pass through the park are damaged and KW&SB officials say that the required funds are not available. Efforts are however underway to overcome this problem.

A residents body, comprising of people living in flats adjacent to the park has been formed to oversee and monitor the development work.

Any person, organization, multinationals willing to fund our plans for purchasing/ installing children amusement equipment such as slides and benches etc. are most welcome. □



## URBAN MANAGEMENT

### Challenges of municipal development in Sri Lanka: The case of Colombo municipality

*Mr. Deshabandu Karu Jayasuriya, the Honorable Mayor of Colombo city talks about his efforts to improve the living conditions of the city through active participation of citizens and organized private sector by initiating fresh approaches to city governance. Our own city managers can learn a lot from Mr. Jayasuriya's bold new initiatives and policies*

The development of Local Government in Sri Lanka, can be traced to very ancient times. Historical records of the first to the sixth centuries AD contain numerous references to such matters as the recovery of the rates, taxes and revenue shares, supply of water for irrigation, the existence of administrative divisions and so on.

The affairs of each village were controlled by its natural leaders, and the Village Councils known as the *Gan Sabha*, which functioned independent of the central authority.

There were also larger councils known as *Rata Sabhas* which dealt with matters concerning the whole district or province. The great cities of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka, had their own Town Councils and Mayors.

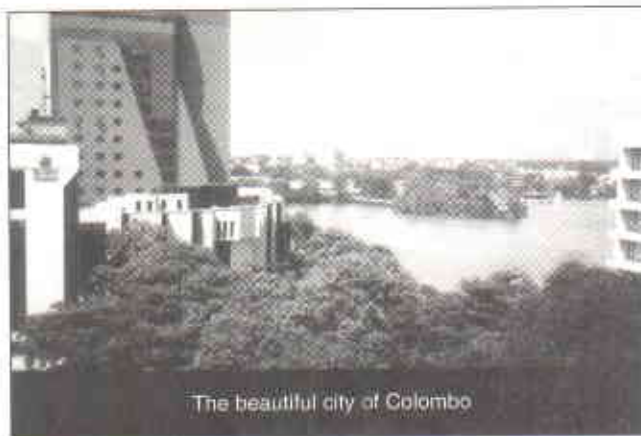
During the periods of Portuguese, Dutch and early British rule, when we were one of their colonies these systems saw a decline and ceased to receive local recognition.

Early British administrators however realised the value of the old system and its association with old customs. They introduced to the towns and urban areas modern machinery of local government, very

much on the British model.

For Colombo, as many cities of the developing world, colonialism played a dominant role in shaping the urban form. Cities were laid out to serve the needs of trade and territorial administration.

It was in 1865, that the Colombo Municipal Council was inaugurated. Its formation marked the first elections to public office held in this country in the colonial era.



Over the hundred odd years since, this city has steadily progressed to be a modern city, throbbing with activity, with a population of nearly 800,000 and a floating population of nearly half a million.

The from rigid, hierarchical, bureaucratic form was the traditional model of public administration in this country. Often have we heard of the poor performance of public bureaucracies, the cumbersome red-tapes, unpleasant officials, poor services and corrupt or

irregular practices. We also witnessed a significant decline in the performance of the public sector due to "politicization". I looked for a change in a profession that saw little change for most of this century. I also realised that there was a need for a shift from the traditional form of Public Administration to Public Management.

Over the past few decades, politics had become an integral part of the Council administration. In order to ensure a good relationship, prior to the Local Government Elections, every effort was made to include several professionals as candidates, whilst allowing grass root level politicians. Nominations were given to those with good "civic record and all candidates were required to declare their assets. This enabled us to ensure an experienced as well as professional team

as Councillors in our current tenure. I also selected my deputy and successor, even before assuming office and gave him the opportunity to acquire leadership skill and the warmth of the Mayoral Chair.

In an effort to minimise wasteful inter-party conflict and political confrontation which has reduced the quality of services, five members of the opposition political parties in the Council were elected as Chairman from the 15 Statutory





Standing Committees. Together they formed the Inner Cabinet. This was a new concept, with 33% of my Cabinet appointed from the opposition.

Another positive step was to depoliticise the administration. The Councillors role was more in setting out the policies, determined by the needs of their electorates. The executives handled the implementation. Though the Mayor was the Chief Executive Officer of the Council, There was a very high degree of delegation to the Deputy Mayor with the Municipal Commissioner acting as the Chief Operations Officer.

More emphasis was given, on training - particularly on public relations and customer focus.

These changes created a new atmosphere to the Council. Officials were made to feel as being part of the institution and a sense of participatory management was evident. Greater involvement of the officials in the activities has created a sense of TEAM SPIRIT with regular dialogue and meetings, managers leading by example, creating a climate of trust, sharing their knowledge and participation with their subordinates, taking care of the employees and above all giving them the assurance that there would be no political interference.

Now the private sector is involved with us in the delivery of many services - maintenance of dispensaries, street name boards, roundabouts, traffic lighting system, common amenities to the poor, preparation of the vision for the city, tree planting campaign, cleaning campaigns, educational activities and so on.

The establishment of the Advisory Committee was a new initiative. The members appointed are those

recognized for their expertise, experience and reputation in the relevant field. Their main role was to devise on the long term, professional development of the services concerned for the betterment of the city and to introduce discussion about international developments in the fields concerned and how they could be introduced to the Council. The City Watch Committee is also a group of civic leaders and professionally qualified persons who would initiate and maintain regular dialogue with us on matters pertaining to the rate-payers, services and other activities.

The under-served form an important sector of the city population. 45% of the housing stock in the city are slums, shanties and tenements. A peoples participation program through the formation of Community Development Councils, CDCs, has been established to enhance the community participation and safeguard the amenities provided. Today we have nearly 600 CDCs under the overall supervision of the Council.

For the first time in this City, a *Career Guidance Information Centre* has been established. It has already attracted a large number of young people seeking information on their future careers. This too has been possible due to the support and cooperation received from the Private Sector, the Organisation of Professional Association, the Chambers of Commerce and the Universities.

Among the many NGOs the Lion Ladies are fully involved, with us in the management of the Home for the Aged and the City Orphanage. They visit them regularly providing the inmates with the much needed love and care.

An ambitious program of providing vocational training to 5000

young people in the next 12 months has also received the support of several NGOs.

With a view to bring back the old charm of the City, the Institute of Architects volunteered to prepare the document on the "*Vision for the City of Colombo - year 2005*". The City Watch Committee has initiated action to carry out a complete census of the city - a most needed project as the last census was done over twenty five years ago.

The International Community has shown tremendous interest and has responded favourably towards our efforts to develop the City. The management approach of the Council is to improve the quality of live and health in the City. We want to involve the citizens, the private sector and the NGO's in the creation of a People - Friendly City. This can be made possible through effective leadership, political will and new forms of democratic and participatory governance.

Our vision is that of Colombo being a model city in Asia providing a high quality of life to the people. Our mission is to provide better quality services to the public with effective utilization of all the resources by a motivated and dedicated team.

It is vital that local administration systems are credible in the eye of the political power structure and legitimate in the eyes of the local residents. For this, what is necessary is a proper institutional and political framework for local governance. Because the ultimate responsibility for the design of institutions, procedures and policies rests with the politicians, officials and residents of each City. □

*(Excerpts from the speech of the Mayor of Colombo at the Colombo Workshop.)*



## MATTER OF MOMENT

### Going Nuclear: A costly mistake

*Ali Hasan Cemendtaur writes on the futility of an arms race on the sub-continent and asks the leaders on both sides to instead focus their energies and resources on solving the basic needs of the suffering millions that inhabit these lands.*

**D**riving through the Saddam area, I spot a motorcycle. A ten year old is riding with his father. The child is holding a baby. The motorcycle is zigzagging through traffic. I get anxious; I fear the baby will slip out of the hands of the ten year old and will be run over by the traffic. I pull to a side and let the motorcycle vanish out of my sight. All I can do is pray my fears will not come true. It is not only in raising children, infact we demonstrate the same kind of casualness in all aspects of our lives. We do things very casually, without the least regard to the consequences – avoiding accidents and mishaps by a hairbreadth margin. Such is our culture. It is the near miss culture of India and Pakistan.

Cars, air conditioning system, industrial machinery – they all come to our country with safeguards and protections. We take out all the protections and use things with least attention to safety. No matter what God tells us of taking precautions, we shrug off and make Him responsible for everything! It is all part of our near miss culture. And sometimes we don't miss it – accidents happen. Trains derail; every couple of months you hear a bus plunging down a mountain because some much needed repair was not done. Most bizarre accidents happen here. Few years ago a train going at full speed ran into a stalled freight train killing hundreds. The stalled train was there

because its driver thought about visiting his folks in the nearby village before continuing his journey! Industrial accidents happen all the time. Accidents happen in the western world too but well thought out safety and contingency plans are in place to tackle the crisis.

And now, India and Pakistan, sharing this near miss culture, possess nuclear weapons of mass destruction. Ooooh. The situation makes you jittery. If you ever sit down and write different scenarios of things going wrong you will fill several pages. Error; misjudgment; mistake; jumping the gun; belligerent lunatics taking hostage a nuclear facility, etc. etc. Bring a diehard atheist and the situation will make him believe in the Almighty. We live in chaos in this part of the world. And amidst this chaos we will be trying to keep some very deadly weapons tame. I don't think we are capable enough to handle this technology of mass destruction.

The argument is: if USA, China and England can have nuclear arsenals, what is wrong with India and Pakistan having them. The answer is obvious: the former nations cited in this argument are much more stable – eco-

**We live in chaos in this part of the world. And amidst this chaos we will be trying to keep some very deadly weapons tame. I don't think we are capable enough to handle this technology of mass destruction.**

nomically and politically. We don't compete with them in literacy, GNP, per capita income, etc. why should we compete with them in possession of nuclear weapons? Since the first and the only twin use of the A-bomb – when the consequences of a nuclear war were fully revealed – these nations have shown utmost restraint. USA did not nuke Vietnam while leaving it in disgrace and England did not nuke Argentina over the Falkland issue, while Russia did not drop an A-bomb in Afghanistan. I doubt if India and Pakistan could show the same restraint in an armed conflict. We are so fanatic, so full of hatred for each other, so easily provoked, so factional. One group of people will nuke the rival group in the same country, let alone across the border!

The higher the literacy rate in a country the more it is trusted internationally. Had Malaysia possessed this technology, I would have been least bothered. But this dangerous technology in the unstable societies of India and Pakistan makes me very uncomfortable. No matter which professional organizations are on the controls of nuclear weaponry in the two countries, they will be under pressure from the populace





- a populace that shares the near miss culture.

When I reach this far in writing, I get a call from a friend. I am told both India and Pakistan have declared a moratorium on their nuclear tests. Hearing this is comforting but not comforting enough. Have the two countries laid off all their nuclear and missile scientists? What exactly is happening behind the curtains? How far are the Agnee and Ghouri programs? I will be more comfortable with transparency than with hush-hush. Only when treaties on non-usage of nuclear weapons and complete removal of the nuclear weapons in a specific time frame are signed, the peace loving people of the two countries could have a good night's sleep.

On my worries of a nuclear war I am told that besides plane crashes, road accidents, and heart attacks, this is one more anxiety I should learn to live with. I disagree. Compared to heart attacks and accidents, a nuclear war is a collective anxiety and a collective anxiety could only be removed by collective will.

For a while my friend and I talk about the safeguards that should be immediately adopted. The military leaders of both sides should meet right away and discuss measures for avoiding accidental launching of a missile tipped with a nuclear weapon. The fact that the two countries border each other makes things even more complicated. We don't have the time to critically analyze a suspicious object in flight. Anything fired from one side reaches the other side in no time. At this point I get irritated. All this is very complex and completely unnecessary. Why can't the leaders of

the two countries sit together and talk? Negotiations and statesmanship are more effective, straight forward and far less expensive than keeping nuclear arsenals.

I understand that this humanitarian point of view might be irrelevant to the political realities of this region: the Akhand Bharat, the two nation theory, the Kashmir issue, and all other sacred causes asking our sacrifice. The Indians say that they felt threatened by Chinese supremacy in nuclear arms and had to prove their might. Pakistan in turn felt threatened by India's nuclear capability and our nuclear explosion corrected the balance of power in the subcontinent. But we can't kid ourselves on the working of the logic of deterrence in this part of the world; we are not known to be very logical people.

Maybe it is time to realize some basic facts. The most basic one being that no matter how much India and Pakistan hate each other, neither can wipe the other side out. We have to learn to live with each other. The majority of the people of India and Pakistan are against any kind of war to solve the crisis. No price is too big for lasting peace in this region. Let's force our leaders to sit together. Let's force them to eradicate poverty, provide basic amenities to their people, and achieve 100% literacy. And on reaching these goals people in India and Pakistan will be enlightened enough to realize the futility of an arms race. □

*(Ali Hasan Cemendtaur is a Mechanical Engineer and member Shehri-CBE)*

## Rain Rain

Rain, rain come again.  
Come quickly and fill  
the drains.  
Manholes and the water mains.  
Do not make me pray in vain.  
come again, come again.

Wash the people,  
wash their cars,  
cool them down, wash  
away all of scars.

Fill K.M.C. reservoirs with  
water, clean;  
wash the trees and make  
them green.

Let WAPDA and KESC  
save electricity.  
Let them in darkness  
plunge the city.

Choke the drains so that  
the Water Board,  
May get a chance to increase  
its hoard.

Make road contractors say  
with glee.  
We'll always stay rich.  
Ha, Ha, Hee, Hee.

Rain, rain come again.  
Come and play with us  
such games.  
In which we lose and they all  
gain.

Do not make me pray in vain,  
come again, come again.

-Kiran Bashir Ahmad



## COMMENTS

### Media and the environment

*The media has a significant role to play in the efforts towards environmental preservation.*

*Farhan Anwar identifies some problems being faced by environmental journalists in the country and suggests measures for change*

**T**he media is quite often said to present the conscience of a nation. Electronic and print media, free from the machinations of the state give a voice to the hopes and aspirations, failures and achievements, fears and concerns of the common man.

In a country like ours, caught in a seemingly never ending crisis of governance manifesting in social, economic and administrative chaos, the role and responsibility of the national media magnifies even further. The media has to inform and educate the citizen and keep track of the follies of the state. It is a role which requires sound judgment, and above all an unfettered commitment and devotion towards the welfare and well being of the nation and its inhabitants.

Pakistan is a country faced with countless challenges which are causing serious doubts on the viability of our aims to enter the 21st century as a financially vibrant and politically stable state. One issue which threatens the sustainability of our visions for future prosperity is the phenomenon of environmental degradation. Going by the historical clock, it is a relatively new concern, now being termed as the greatest challenge of the next century.

Here again the media has an important role to play. In raising the awareness levels of the common citizen, in identifying the culprits, who are only too eager to become a part of the problem -

either by ignorance or by design and in ensuring that the needful is being done by those vested with the powers to stem the rising tide of environmental degradation.

What then is the present situation vis-a-vis the capacity and capability of our media professionals to tackle this challenge, the accompanying hindrances and obstacles and the potential for positive change?

There are various issues which need to be looked into.

In the present age of development and technological innovations, Pakistan finds itself in the unenviable position of housing more illiterate than literate people! Whenever an awareness raising campaign is initiated on any issue such as environmental degradation, particularly through the print media, this massive national illiteracy percentage poses an immediate road block. How can we overcome this hurdle? This is an issue which needs to be considered and demands alternative and innovative approaches.

While English is the language of the elite upper and middle classes and the functioning of the state, the masses still communicate in

Urdu and regional languages. It has been felt that the English press as compared to the vernacular press exhibits better quality environmental journalism and a more in-depth understanding of related issues. This gap needs to be closed, if the message is to be spread far and wide.

**It has been felt that the English press as compared to the vernacular press exhibits better quality environmental journalism and a more in-depth understanding of related issues. This gap needs to be closed, if the message is to be spread far and wide.**

Issues related to the preservation of environment often represent a complex mix of social, economic, political and technological concerns. In the developed world a special status is being accorded to the area of environmental journalism and consequently specialized training and facilities are being provided to such professionals. Are we doing the same or do our journalists assigned a beat of arts & showbiz, on one day find

themselves covering some complex and explosive environmental debate the next day? Unfortunately the latter seems to be the case.

It is also a concern of many that while the print media is gradually improving upon its environmental reporting and coverage, the electronic media, particularly the state controlled media is lagging far behind and no clear policy in this regard can be identified. Due to the high rate of illiteracy in the country, the role of print media





needs to be enhanced and magnified even further. Need one remind us of the famous Chinese saying "A picture is worth a thousand words".

As mentioned earlier, environmental issues are more often than not social and political in nature. More so in a corrupt political environment such as ours. Media professionals often encounter political interference or opposition from people with vested interest. Even violent in nature. How can such pressures be managed?

It is often felt that news about environmental degradation - cutting down of forests, pollution of drinking water, killing of endangered animals and burning of garbage do not evoke the same interest and passion among readers as say some explosive statement of some political leader. Environmental news needs to be brought to the front line of the national debate. This can only be done through bold and farsighted policy initiatives on the part of the major publication houses. Presently not much progress in this con-

text is visible.

It is hoped that the government and media professionals alike, at the earliest take into account and evaluate the existing scenario and set important guidelines leading to an enhanced and more effective role of the media in the efforts to preserve and protect our environment. □

(Farhan Anwar is Editor, Shehri Newsletter)



A generation lost

## URBAN PHOTO ALBUM



Disposal of industrial waste



Where does the market end and the road begin?



Yes, it is a scene from urban life in Karachi!



## ORGANIZATION PROFILE

### Citizen-Police Liaison Committee : An organization on the move

*Shehri looks into the workings of Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC), an organization which is constantly developing new plans, strategies and technologies to combat crime in the city of Karachi. Also highlighted are CPLC's future plans of action.*

Originally the C.P.L.C.'s were established at 4 Police Stations in Karachi, through the commissioner's administrative order. Subsequently, a notification was issued by the Sindh Government amending the Police Rules to institutionalise the C.P.L.C. concept.

The Governor Sindh later established the C.P.L.C. Central Reporting Cell at the Sindh Governor House on 17th March, 1990, to overlook the functioning of C.P.L.C. and appointed them with the powers of Magistrate (Honorary) of the first class for the entire Division of Karachi in particular and the province in general to:-

- Oversee the working of 4 District C.P.L.Cs. established at the respective SSP's Offices.
- Look after the functions of C.P.L.Cs. in the remaining Police Stations.
- Educate and assist the citizens to enforce their rights viz-a-viz the police.
- Assist the police in performance of their legal duties.
- Motivate citizens to help the police in BEATING CRIME TOGETHER.
- Assist the citizens who are victims of crime.

#### Expansion / Restructuring

Expansion of C.P.L.C. took place at District Level in January 93, when four district level committees were

established in Karachi constituting 11 members each, drawn from a cross-section of non-political citizens as recommended by the Chief C.P.L.C.-C.R.C. to the Governor Sindh. The District members were conferred the power of Magistrate (Honorary) and Justice of Peace (J.P.). These Committees have established their offices at the district SSP offices and are catering to the needs of a larger section of the citizens without any funding from the government. The C.P.L.C. is now headed by Mr. Jameel Yusuf (Sitara-e-Shujaat) as the Chief of C.P.L.C..

#### Performance CPLC-CRC Office

The entire construction of was CPLC Central Reporting Cell (CRC) at Sindh Governor House was designed, financed and supervised by CPLC itself, through the courtesy of its well wishers who donated generously in cash, kind and services. The CRC works under the direct control of the Chief, CPLC, being assisted by his Special Assistant/Deputy and 16 paid staff members working in two shifts from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

#### CPLC-District Reporting Cells (DRCs)

CPLC-District Reporting Cells are



Jameel Yusuf S.ST, the moving force behind CPLC

located in the District SSP offices for easy access of general public to lodge their complaints. These four District offices were established on 4 June, 1998. The offices of DRCs are headed by a Chief, assisted by a Deputy Chief and 9 members including a lady member, imparting their voluntary services with financial support. It also has four paid staff members, who are working as Citizen Liaison Officers, besides handling all other routine office work.

#### Services Provided to the Citizen

- Lodge F.I.Rs, when facing difficulty.
- Follow-up on Investigations/Citizens complaints.
- Record & Relay information for assistance in Car Thefts, Dacoity, Accidents etc.
- Maintain computerised data of all such crimes.
- Return of recovered vehicles to legal owners, through courtesy of S.H.Os. and concerned D.Ms.
- Obtain Final Report certificate of their stolen vehicles,





through courtesy of S.S.Ps.

- g) Obtain arms licenses through the courtesy of Home Department, mainly to families who have been victims of kidnapping for ransom and other such heinous crimes.

CPLC collects information regarding latest CRIME PREVENTION and the CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM in other parts of the world. CPLC - CRC is endeavouring to become a member of the International Association of Civilians Oversight of Law Enforcement, based in U.S.A.

Through advertisement campaigns in the print media, the citizens are advised on Anti-Vehicle Snatching Measures, Lodging of F.I.Rs, Access to Police Control "15" for quick response, Identification of recovered vehicles, lodging complaints against extortion, poor investigation, illegal detention, etc. These advertisements are mainly in 4 languages English, Urdu, Gujrati & Sindhi.

### Development of Crime Pattern

CPLC, aims not only to assist in lodging FIRs and monitoring their progress, but also to provide assistance in combating crimes through emerging patterns. Computerization aids this organization as all complaints are maintained on the computers and very advanced software, such as the Criminal Identification and Sketching System is used not only to print graphic pictures of the criminals but develop similarity in various cases, giving beneficial clues to the Police/Law Enforcing Agencies investigators leading to detection of many heinous crimes.

### Computer Identity Kit / Computerised Photography

Criminal Identification and Sketching System (CISS) through latest Computer techniques enables CPLC to develop sketches of criminals so as to easily identify them. This information is of valuable assistance in tracking the wanted persons, or in checking from past Police records.



### Anti-Kidnapping

The CPLC has handled 203 cases of kidnapping for ransom by application of modern techniques and scientific methods, which has been instrumental in rounding up 67 groups of kidnappers consisting of over 300 criminals.

In addition to all the modern Anti-Kidnapping equipment, CPLC has also procured Cellular Phones and Pagers for Law Enforcing Agencies, Police and CIA for liaisoning during operations against kidnappers and terrorists in Karachi and for effective communication in general.

In recognition of his services, in encountering cases of kidnapping for ransom at the risk of his life, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was pleased to confer on Mr. Jameel Yusuf, the award of "Sitara-e-Shujaat" on

14th August 1993.

### Encouraging the Kidnapped Victim to Identify / Witness

Due to a sad state of affairs in our lower level judicial system, the witnesses are very reluctant to come forward and give evidence because of frequent delay in hearings and personal security. Many criminals are acquitted and all the efforts of the law enforcing agencies become futile. The CPLC has played a significant role in encouraging witnesses to come forward and testify. They have been assisted by modern methods of evidence, such as covert photography, voice-matching and identity-kit sketches.

'Witness Protection Programme' liaison with police and court proceedings liaison with the Judiciary for speedy recording of witnesses statements have led to many convictions in STA Courts.

Emergency telephone lines were installed at kidnappees residence through the courtesy of Home Department and co-operation of General Manager Karachi Telecommunication Region, which has been highly appreciated by the concerned families.

### Central Vehicle Pool (CVP) - (Nazarath)

During the course of monitoring Motor Vehicle Thefts, it was observed that vehicles recovered were being misused even under judicial supervision (Nazarath). In order to overcome this problem, it was suggested by CPLC to centralize the Nazarath of all the districts for effective supervision of recovered vehicles under one window. After a lot of persuasion and filing of a constitutional petition by CPLC against the disposal



of vehicles, an order was issued by the the Honourable High Court of Sindh for releasing the stolen/snatched vehicles to legal owners only (under Superdari) and also the procedures of auction under section 524 Cr.PC. The Commissioner, Karachi, ordered the setting up of a Central Vehicle Pool (called Central Nazarath) adjacent to the PIA Planetarium on 26th October, 1992 where a Magistrate is available to issue release orders of the vehicles to be handed over to the respective owners.

Nazirs of all the districts are supervising the proceedings of the deposit/release of the recovered vehicles, keeping a vigil on the vehicles deposited in their respective district pool to avoid misuse of them. A representative of Excise and Taxation Department is also available at the CVP to verify ownership of vehicles. CPLC also has its office at the CVP, having modem links to its Central Reporting Cell at Sindh Governor House, supervised by a CPLC member which maintains computerised record of vehicles deposit/release from there and guides the citizens regarding procedure of releasing such vehicles, besides CPLC -CVP office also supervises the auction procedures and proceedings of the vehicles which are recovered/seized but are unclaimed, through publication of advertisements in the newspapers under sections 523 and 524 Cr.PC.

The Sindh Government has earned a Revenue of Rs. 13.5 Million approx. in a period of two years i.e. 1994 - 1996 due to the efforts of CPLC in not permitting the misuse of unclaimed vehicles.

### Charged Parking

The CPLC has successfully implemented the project as proposed by Traffic Engineering Bureau in

collaboration with K.M.C. and the active participation of the District Administration on the main artery roads namely:- Zaibunnisa Street and Abdullah Haroon Road. While achieving the main objectives of improvement in traffic flow, this project has given employment to about 150 persons, mainly students (including about 15 disabled persons) and is left with surplus income to be used by Traffic Engineering Bureau & DIG Traffic for Traffic Betterment Programmes.

### Police Welfare

CPLC is working side by side with the Police Department to study and propose housing, medical and schooling facilities for its officers/officials and their families.

CPLC has been instrumental right from the initial stage to provide the following:

- i. Improvement/face lifting of Ferozabad P.s.t. (painting, road repairs, garden etc.).
- ii. New furniture, proper lights, water coolers, toilets etc.
- iii. Gas connections for Ferozabad Police Lines, consisting of 69 flats. This is the first Police Line to be provided with gas connection and the entire cost was borne by CPLC.
- iv. Additional Water Connections to Police Lines through the courtesy of KWSB.
- v. New Heavy Duty Motors to pump water to the overhead tanks of Police Lines flats.
- vi. Children's Park.

Similar projects for improvement of other Police Lines by CPLC would better the liaison of Police and Citizens and convey the message that "We Care".

CPLC is also preparing a feasibility to operate a Police Hospital on professional lines, to be equipped

with latest medical/surgical appliances. The Police officials will be treated free or with maximum subsidy, while the general public will also have access just as in case of a private hospital. This will make the operation and management more effective and beneficial to all.

Medical Dispensaries at all Police Lines to facilitate the treatment of wives and children of policemen for minor ailments near their residence.

The entire operation i.e. day to day working will be under a Board of Governors consisting of Police, CPLC and the Book Group. 75% children of Police personnel and 25% of neighboring residents children will be eligible for admission.

The expenses/financial constraints for operating this school will be fully borne by Neighborhood Care, a CPLC project.

### Central Command Computer System (CCCS)

A Central Command Computer System is installed at the Central Reporting Cell, which has been initiated on the directives of the H'n-ble Prime Minister of Pakistan, to modernize the record keeping system to assist the Police through CPLC for effective pursuit of criminals and curbing terrorist activities.

This system would form the backbone of prisoner record keeping. The proposed software will be capable of incorporating all data presently kept at the photo section of CRO from the last twenty-three years and of the prisoner at the other jails.

### Geographic Information Systems (GIS) For Crime Analysis

Geographic Information System





(GIS) is an integrated information management environment comprised of hardware, software, communications, data, personnel and procedures that can use geography as a common location enabled organizing frame work. A GIS stores diverse information in a database and spatially links the information to Geographic features in the real world.

The early stages of GIS implementation required the creation of an accurate and contemporary digital base map for Karachi. This involved the capturing of all the police jurisdiction boundaries, police stations, major landmarks, major roads, railways, rivers and other geographic features. Initially, many of these features were derived from the "Karachi Guide Book" published by the Survey of Pakistan in the year 1990. However, since many aspects of the city structure have changed in recent years, base map development also demands continuous updates and field data verification. This will be an ongoing process for the CPLC. Unfortunately, city-wide updated maps showing new developments in the city have not been initiated by any development agency or town planning department in Karachi.

The CPLC is the first organization to be permitted by the Surveyor General of Pakistan to develop a

digitized street map of Karachi, due to the personal interest and initiative of the Governor Sindh, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider.

### Spatial Crime Analysis System

CPLC has grown in its functions and mandate, so have the demands on its data management capabilities. The CPLC has established an advanced, distributed information management (computing) infrastructure, with competent technical personnel. While its databases are extensive and populated with descriptive (attribute) and temporal (time-series) data, the spatial component has until now, been missing.

After a visit to CPLC-CRC on the recommendation of the Hon'able Governor Sindh and through the courtesy of the Secretary, Economics Affairs Division, Government of Pakistan, the UNDP initiated a project to support the CPLC in crime management. This project is designed to rapidly enhance existing information management capabilities through the development of a Spatial Crime Analysis System. This will support law enforcement agencies and community action groups by enhancing public safety and the protection of life in Karachi.

crime. Furthermore, factors such as demographics, socio-economic profiles, poverty levels, over crowding etc. conspire to influence this process. Consequently, if crime events can be geo-located on a base map, they can be spatially analyzed to reveal important trends, patterns and relationships. Predictive modeling is also possible by isolating specific cause and effect relationships.

The Spatial Crime Analysis System at the CPLC will provide a powerful capacity to better comprehend and interdict crime within a complex and dynamic urban setting.

### Finance

CPLC - CRC has been established with the financial and physical cooperation of citizens, who have donated all the capital equipment purchased for the operation of the cell. Only part of the monthly administrative expenditure is being provided by the Provincial Government. Initially it started with Rs. 30,000/- per month and gradually due to expansion and inflation during the last 6 years increased to Rs. 70,000/- per month, to meet some of the basic expenditures.

Presently the average operational expenditure is nearly Rs. 300,000/- (Three hundred thousand only), per month or Rs. 3.6 Million per annum (The Government contribution initially averaged is 30%). The entire Capital expenditure viz Computer Hardware for Networking internally and with district offices, furniture and fixtures, fax machine, photocopier, electronic surveillance equipment, softwares etc. and construction of the CPLC Central Reporting Cell at Sindh Governor's House has been through public donations. □

**Are all your doors  
and windows locked?**

**Don't let strangers in.  
Use your chain!**

CITIZENS POLICE LIAISON COMMITTEE  
HELP LINE 7111 5682222



Crime is an inherently spatial phenomenon. Specific areas of a city are predisposed to certain types of



## DEVELOPMENT

### Rays of hope

*Shehri provides profiles of two separate development programmes, one rural and the other urban based, which are serving as proven examples of successful community development initiatives.*

#### COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

**U**p in the mountainous Chitral district of NWFP, the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) relies on self-help for its success. It is improving local people's welfare through social development and income generation. People living in remote parts of Pakistan are often worse off than the rest of the population and have limited, or no access to social services. Similar programmes are underway in other areas of northern Pakistan.

In the Chitral district, with its 283,000 inhabitants, 632 village organisations (VOs) for men and 255 women's organisations (WOs) have informed. The VO, which is intended to become integral to village life, administers savings and loans schemes and also chooses, and oversees, the community's most needed infrastructure project, such as a road, a school or a health centre.

The AKRSP also supports programmes for:

- **agriculture** - to expand the cropping area and increase productivity with improved seeds for wheat, rice, maize, vegetables and potatoes; to encourage fruit tree growing
- **forestry** - to plant more trees

for firewood and animal fodder; 4.35 million sapling have been planted and 79 nurseries are now established

- **training** - in agriculture, forestry, livestock and poultry, marketing and in running the VOs and WOs; half of those trained are women

Key to the programme's success is a credit scheme to help men and women to start or expand a small business; default on repayments is low as community pressure is placed upon the individual concerned.

**Key to the programme's success is a credit scheme to help men and women to start or expand a small business; default on repayments is low as community pressure is placed upon the individual concerned.**

The WOs, which run in tandem with the VOs, have transformed the women's lives. "The men respect us more because the money we make benefits the family," says Daqdir Hawa. "Before AKRSP, there was no concept of saving. Now, there is tremendous change; we keep more woollen cloth and we put money in the bank."

The Aga Khan Health Service (AKHS) has also been developing a house visiting programme in the Chitral region. Local people, trained as health workers, now treat ailments such as respiratory infections (pneumonia is common among children), diarrhoea, worms and scabies, and give advice on hygiene, sanitation and

nutrition.

"Now nearly all the mothers can treat diarrhoea with oral rehydration and give their children iodised salt to prevent iodine deficiency, which is endemic. Before it was less than half," explains Dr. Mohammad Nazir, programme manager.

There are now more trained female birth attendants who help with ante and post-natal care, and give family planning advice.

#### URBAN DEVELOPMENT

**F**aisalabad is Pakistan's third largest city but its rapid growth has created large slum areas. The Faisalabad Area Upgrading Project (FAUP) works with local government to upgrade the slum areas; infrastructure - including water supply and sewerage systems, rubbish collection, schooling and health facilities. It is also supporting city-wide water and sanitation services.

Wajid Hassan, an education specialist, says: "The important thing is that the community is involved in the whole development process. They help to plan implement and supervise all the activities. "For example, recently a Community Infrastructure Unit has been created within the Water and Sanitation Agency at Faisalabad to liaise with the project's community organisations.

In the Shadab Colony, 250 projects have been completed including building a girls school which, like





the boys, has a toilet, running water and electricity. Tarmac has been laid on the once muddy main streets, rubbish clearing is now organised and a park for women and children - which was filled with debris - has newly laid paths and trees.

"People feel confident to approach local officials for support because of the success of the projects. Relations are good," Says Shahid Mahmood, engineer and social organiser.

At Noorpoora, open sewers on seven lanes have been replaced with underground waste pipes. "Before, our children used to fall into the sewer and get sick - now they are healthy," says Naseem, who organised a sewer for her lane

as part of a women's project. One family waited until the sewer was constructed before finding a husband for their daughter: if the area looked pleasant they felt they would make a better match.

A new mother and child health centre offers maternity and child care, family planning and education on hygiene, reproductive health and disease, through local meetings and door to door visits. Previously women travelled 8km to the district hospital.

At Islam Nagar, the projects include electricity, new brick roads, a park and education. A Women's Work Centre has been created for women to learn to sew. So far 300 have been trained, for which they pay a small fee, to use

sewing machines and to embroider. "The training is good for the girls' prospects. With this skill they can make clothes for their family at home and earn money," says Nusrat Naz, a sewing trainer.

Chak-7, an extremely poor community which mostly makes a living out of recycling rubbish, has recently had a school established. Aiming to encourage children to attend school instead of working with their parents, it now has 80 pupils aged between five and ten years old. Their chances of better employment have greatly improved. □

*(Courtesy: DFID, Govt. of Great Britain)*

## The Sixteen Decisions of Grameen Bank

In 1984 a national workshop of 100 women center chiefs agreed to the Sixteen Decisions or resolutions on improved social practices to be implemented by all the members

1. The four principles of the Grameen Bank - Discipline, Unity, Courage and Hard Work - we shall follow and advance in all walks of our lives.
2. Prosperity we shall bring to our families.
3. We shall not live in dilapidated houses. We shall repair our houses and work towards constructing new houses at the earliest.
4. We shall grow vegetables all the year round. We shall eat plenty of them and sell the surplus.
5. During the planting seasons, we shall plant as many seedlings as possible.
6. We shall plan to keep our families small. We shall minimize our expenditures. We shall look after our health.
7. We shall educate our children and ensure that they can earn to pay for their education.
8. We shall always keep our children and the environment clean.
9. We shall build and use pit-latrines.
10. We shall drink tube-well water. If it is not available we shall boil water or use alum.
11. We shall not take any dowry in our sons weddings, neither shall we give any dowry in our daughters' weddings. We shall keep the center free from the curse of dowry. We shall not practice child marriage.
12. We shall not inflict any injustice on anyone, neither shall we allow anyone to do so.
13. For higher income we shall collectively undertake bigger investments.
14. We shall always be ready to help each other. If anyone is in difficulty, we shall all help them.
15. If we come to know of any breach of discipline in any center, we shall all go there and help restore discipline.
16. We shall introduce physical exercise in all our centers. We shall take part in all social activities collectively. □

Prospective members study the Sixteen Decisions and are tested on them before being accepted as members.

## INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

### Muddy hands at the computer

*On the polder farmers are working with a new agricultural method that allows them to use 75 per cent less pesticides. Precision agriculture is based on resistant crops.*

Integrated agriculture is the thing of the future. According to farmer Daan Moelker (39) it is more efficient than regular methods and more environmentally friendly than organic farming. "To be on the safe side, farmers using the normal methods always pray their crops too much. By only spraying when it's strictly necessary we have reduced the use of pesticides by 75 per cent," he says.

Moelker set up Milinnova together with eight other farmers from the Flevopolder (which was reclaimed from the IJsselmeer in the sixties). Milinnova is an acronym of the Dutch for environment and innovation.

The basic principle behind this integrated agricultural method is to obtain maximum output with a minimum input of fertiliser. Efficiency is the watchword. "This is the advantage of our method above the organic method," believes Moelker. "Sometimes we decide to use artificial fertiliser instead of organic fertiliser for the sake of the environment. If you give them the right dose, plants use it better."

The Milinnova method is based on a computer connected to a number of small



**The basis of the Milinnova-method is a computer connected to small monitoring stations in the field. A leaf moisture sensor is shown here. (source: Opticrop BV)**

monitoring stations in the field which record the microclimate (humidity, wind, temperature etc.) All relevant variables are stored in the computer's memory: the type of crop, the recent weather conditions, the soil type etc.

Using this information, the computer tells the farmer hour by hour exactly when he should spray the crop, and what pesticides he should use. And the computer model always chooses the pesticide with the least impact on the environment.

Since "integrated" farmers prefer to avoid spraying their crops altogether, it is all

the more important that their crop is resistant, "The most efficient way of avoiding disease is of course to have resistant plants," says Moelker.

"Unfortunately, we're dependent on the market and the seed companies. For instance, when I'm choosing what kind of potato to plant, the first thing I think about is what the consumer wants. Then I think about what variety grows best on my land. It's only then that I start to consider resistance. And we don't have that much choice. If there were thousands of farmers using the integrated farming method the commercial seed companies might take more notice.

But developing a new variety is only profitable if it is going to be grown on 100,000 hectares or more."

**Despite the worldwide decline in biodiversity, agricultural crops have become much more resistant as new genetic material has been added over the last fifty years. They could become even more resistant if integrated and organic farming methods are applied on a larger scale.**





According to Pim Lindout, who works at Wageningen Agricultural University's genetic improvement department, it's very difficult to generalise about the link between agricultural methods and biodiversity. "People have this romantic idea about organic farmers who improve their own seeds," he says. "They think that the varieties these farmers create will be best suited to the conditions on the farm. But of course this never happens in practice.



**We need to avail of state-of-art technology in the field of agriculture to increase our yield as it is the backbone of our economy**

There's a lot more involved in genetic improvement. Most organic farmers opt for the modern varieties after all, simply because they're the best. Despite the worldwide decline in biodiversity, agricultural crops have become much more resistant as new genetic material has been added over the last fifty years. They could become even more resistant if integrated

and organic farming methods are applied on a larger scale.

The Milinnova method is already making an indirect contribution to biodiversity, though. "Because we use pesticides effectively," says Moelker, "We leave more harmless weeds in the fields" It's also important that the Milinnova farmers don't plough up or sow the edges of their fields, so new types of plant get a chance. "You could see them as ecological inter-

faces housing all kinds of plants and animals. They also form a buffer between ditches and fields.

The big problem is that people in our generation no longer recognise this rich variety, so we invite biologists to our seminars to teach us about all the species we have on our farms." □

*(Courtesy: Environmental News from the Netherlands, Feb. 1998.)*

## FARMING IN INDIA

1. India is an agricultural country. More than half of her land area is devoted to the cultivation of crops.
2. The Indian farmers own very small farms, often not more than 0.2 hectare.
3. They have large families to support and members assist in farm work all the year round.
4. Two crops are usually grown. A kharif or summer crop such as padi is sown at the beginning of the rainy season and harvested in autumn. This is followed by the rabi or winter crop such as wheat, sown in autumn after the rain and harvested in March.
5. The harvested crops are consumed by the family with no surplus for export. Therefore agriculture is at a subsistence level.
6. As rainfall is irregular and unreliable, irrigation plays an important part in agriculture.
7. Yields per acre are low due to poor soil,

insufficient use of fertilizers, outdated methods of farming and climatic hazards.

### Farming in Upper Ganga Yamuna Doab

1. Upper Ganga Yamuna Doab (India) is located between 28° and 30° 24' north. The term doab means that it lies between two rivers, in this case the Ganga and Yamuna Rivers.
2. It forms part of the Indo-Gangetic plain, and the lowland consists of alluvial soil brought down by the rivers. The plain can be divided into the new alluvium area known as *khadar* and the old alluvium area known as *bhangar*.
3. The khadar area lies along the banks of Ganga and Yamuna and, being low lying, it is inundated by floods frequently.
4. On the other hand, the bhangar tract occupies higher ground, and flood waters do not reach it except during exceptionally high floods. □

## 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.*

# A prayer for the dead

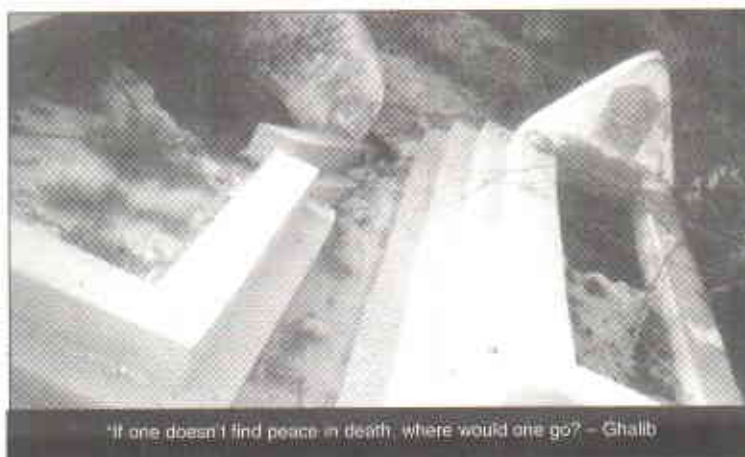
**T**his issue that we are highlighting is not a problem of any particular neighbourhood, rather it is the concern (or should be the concern!) of the whole city. The issue relates to the proper burial of our dead.

According to some estimates close to one lac people die annually in Karachi. Although we are building umpteen numbers of high rises and large palatial mansions to house the living, we have developed pitifully few spaces to bury our dead. The few graveyards that exist are mostly poorly maintained and offer a shameful sight.

There is no planning in graveyards. There is hardly any room to even walk properly and you have to hop over many graves to reach the one you seek - an extremely regrettable and undesirable practice. Graves are often poorly constructed and collapse following the first rains they receive.



Is this how a final resting place should look like?



'If one doesn't find peace in death, where would one go?' - Ghalib

To rectify this situation proper construction practices should be followed. The foundations of the graves be properly laid with proper mix of materials. Unnecessary loading of bricks/marbles on top of the graves, as is commonly seen should be avoided as it is one reason of collapse of the inner portion of the graves. Proper drainage facilities should be provided in graveyard sites if natural drainage is not available. Trees and vegetation in abundance are recommended as they also stabilize the soil and prevent soil erosion.

It is also recommended that ready made graves made of ferrocement/fibre glass/asbestos cement be introduced. This will improve the quality of graves and reduce cost such as labour cost.

We hope that this prayer for the dead is answered. □

*(Raja Asif Rasheed and  
Wasim Lateef, Karachi)*



## JUNIOR SHEHRI

*In a developing country like Pakistan, where much of the nations financial resources need to be diverted towards the production of energy, we need to initiate research and development into using alternative sources of energy like solar and wind energy which are also environment friendly. To find out about their advantages and how they can be produced, read on - Ed.*

### Solar Energy

**S**olar energy is energy produced by the sun. To understand how sunlight produces heat, think about how hot the air inside a car becomes when it is parked in the sun with the windows rolled up on a bright, clear day. Sunlight can be changed into electrical power by devices called **solar cells**. This power is used to operate a variety of electrical appliances, including calculators, fans, and flashlights.

Solar energy offers some advantages over other forms of energy. It is clean. Making it does not pollute the air. Using it does not result in smog, smoke, soot, or any of the chemicals that cause acid rain. Also, solar energy is produced from sunlight, which is a renewable resource, not from fossil fuels which are non renewable sources. Solar energy is however, not always readily available when it is most needed. Less solar energy is produced on cloudy days than on clear ones, and no solar energy is produced at night. But more energy for heat is needed on cloudy days than on clear ones, and more energy for light is needed at night than during daylight. Thus, cheap ways must be found to store solar energy.

### Wind Energy

**W**e rely on fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum to provide much of the energy needed to heat homes, power vehicles, and move machines. It took nature millions of years to create this fuel supply. Now it is dwindling rapidly and may soon run out. One alternate source of energy is the wind. In several naturally windy places in California, scientists are experimenting with wind farms. These farms are acres of relatively flat or gently rolling land, on which people build rows of windmills instead of planting rows of crops.

A windmill is a mechanical device that consists of blades, or rotors, attached to a central pole. The energy created when the wind turns these blades is being used to generate electricity. This electricity is sold to utility companies and to consumers.

Burning fossil fuels to create heat and energy reduces our supply of these fuels and results in by products that pollute the air. Using wind in these ways does not diminish the supply of wind or dirty the air. □

(Courtesy: Earth Book for Kids)

### LET MY WISH COME TRUE

Every morning, as I go to school  
On the way, I see a very big pool  
Filled with cute little tadpoles and  
Colourful polythene bags  
My nose catching the foul stench  
Isn't that really cool!

Not that this is the end, as there are many  
More scenes to enjoy  
A fruit seller shouts, flies protecting his fruits,  
Many cars are passing, emitting black smoke  
Drug addicts are sleeping, enjoying the open air  
Isn't it a great scene!

If only the area is cleaned  
The filth removed  
And trees planted  
With cars running smoke free  
How then I'll really enjoy  
The journey to my school

(Saba Jawed)

### POLLUTION

**P** is for Poor conditions of things on earth,  
**O** stands for the destroyed Ozone layer - a curse  
**L** tells us that we are still not Late  
**L** also stands for the Labour from children that people take,  
**U** asks us to Unite in making this world a better place  
**T** is Truth, that should be our base  
**I** is an Indication of the danger coming closer  
**O** asks us to Overcome this danger and not be a loser  
**N** is our Nice, Neat and Noble world, in whose every corner happiness should spread.

As you can see pollution is a mixed bag of hope and despair, let our resolve not sag.

(Sana Tasneem)





## 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. When did the Karachi Municipality came into operation?

(Kamla Devi, North Nazimabad, Karachi)

A. The Karachi Municipality was set up in 1913, while the Building of Karachi Municipal office was completed in 1931. It was designed by James C. Wynnes and the construction work was supervised by Measham Lea. Total cost of the building and equipment was Rs. 17,75,000/-.

Q. Is there any estimate of how much drinking water is provided through tanker service in Karachi?

(Arshad Hussain, Mehmoodabad, Karachi)

A. Official figure is 28 MGD operating from 10 water hydrants in the city.

Q. How much money is collected by KMC through Octroi Tax?

(Dr. Tajammul Minhas, Defence Housing Authority, Karachi)

A. The annual budget estimate for the year 1997-98 puts the figure at Rs. 388.170 million.

## Shehri needs volun- teers

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

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

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

## 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. 200/- (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 1998! Join Shehri and do your bit as a good citizen to make this city a clean, healthy and environmentally friendly place to live in!



## FORESTRY

### PMTF Gardens - Contributing to a healthy environment

The **Pakistan Machine Tool Factory** is one of the very few public organisations of the country which is contributing in a big way towards the creation of a healthy environment and conservation of nature by nurturing a major forestry development project in their premises

**Brig. Tariq Khalil, SJ, SI(M) Retd. General Manager (A&P)** writes about the achievements of PMTF in the environment sector.

In 1965 it was decided by the Government to establish a factory in the precision engineering sector.

Pakistan Machine Tool Factory is located between Landhi and Gharo area. The place at that time was totally barren land devoid of any fauna and flora. In those days airconditioning was uncommon in industry even in the housing sector. Therefore, the Export Designers who helped in establishing the Factory decided to create a green belt around the Factory workshops to minimize the dust effect.

Consequently, under a well planned scheme, plantation of various types of trees was carried out which could make the environment friendly. It may be recalled that in those days stress on 'Environment' was unknown as it is today.

The credit of the present green belt in PMTF goes to those planners who were engaged in the planning

and establishing of PMTF.

From the year 1967 to 1995, PMTF planted a large variety of trees. (see chart-1)

The green belt was further enlarged in 1995 under a programme and additional plants were planted as follows: (see chart 2)

S. No.	Variety of Trees	Nos.
1.	Sufaida	1700
2.	Cornocarpus	250
3.	Legnium	64
4.	Neem	23011
	Total	25000

This belt with the passage of time has flourished and now covers an area of 70 acres and is one of the most environment friendly plantation in the whole of Karachi.

S. No.	Variety of Trees	Nos.
1.	Mangoes	2000
2.	Jaman	500
3.	Imli	250
4.	Neem	460
5.	Cheekoo	28
6.	Cocunut	1000
7.	Legnum	145
8.	Miscellaneous	5000
	Total	9383





The large variety of flora creates a natural filter for the dust which has now increased manifold due to expansion of housing sector around the Factory and upto Gharo.

**In 1995 PMTF went further ahead and undertook plantation on 700 acres of land allocated at Ghagar near Pak Land Cement Factory. It planted 72,000 Neem trees under a well planned plantation programme.**

Landhi Industrial Estate and Export Processing Zone make it more difficult due to a large number of factories which have come up in the area. Thus PMTF green belt is a very refreshing plantation in the Karachi suburb.

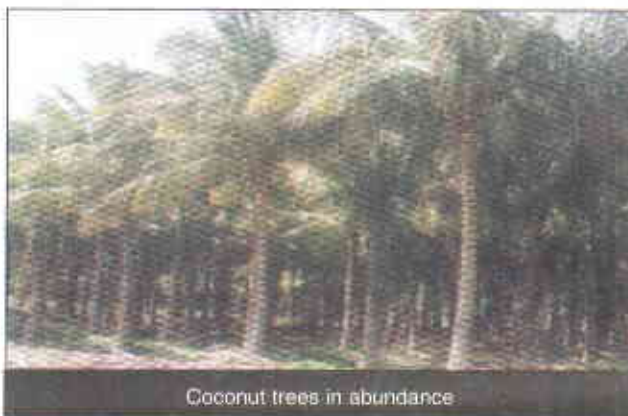
In 1995 PMTF went further ahead and undertook plantation on 700 acres of land allocated at Ghagar near Pak Land Cement Factory.

It planted 72,000 Neem trees under a well planned plantation programme. These plants are now 30 years old and have turned into a very pleasant green area in the wilderness.

A large number of workers alongwith agricultural equipment are deputed for plantation which is being monitored with the help of Divisional Forest Officer,



Years of care and devotion has helped nurtured a wonderful environment



Coconut trees in abundance

Malir and Regional Forest Officer, Dhabejee.

The efforts made so far by PMTF have been highly appreciated by the Chief Conservator Forest, Hyderabad and other Forest Departmental Officials who have visited the plantation sites on both the locations.

PMTF has at present one of the best green area in the city of Karachi. □



Trees prevent noise pollution and make the environment healthy

**R**ecently, staff members and managing committee members of Shehri-CBE visited the Pakistan Machine Tool Factory site and were greatly impressed by what they saw. The dedication shown by the PMTF staff towards the conservation of natural environment in their premises is exemplary. Shehri wishes them success in all their ventures and hopes that other organisations follow the lead of PMTF in this regard - Ed.