



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

September – December, 2001 Vol. 11/No. 3

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Karachi's Coastal Environment: Facing Extinction?

As 205 acres of ecologically rich and sensitive land in the **Eastern Backwater** area is earmarked for development of a residential colony, **Shehri** in this **Special Report** follows the murky trail of events and identifies the role played by various actors, highlighting the urgency of saving our precious coastal environment.

The principles and development of the coastal zone environment is based on certain sound principles which can be best understood by explaining the word "environment" which has been interpreted in various different ways. A broad definition of environment could be the area that surrounds humans, and that environment would include not only the natural environment, but also structures and systems created by humans to prevent disasters and enhance convenience.

Coastal zones contain unique, irreplaceable ecosystems. At the same time, coastal zones are subject to intense use



(L) A satellite image of the Indus Delta, showing the extensive creek system
(R) Chinna Creek: Part of the Eastern Backwaters in Karachi

by humans for transportation activities, resources and energy procurement, industrial uses and recreation. Furthermore coastal zones are the first lines of Defence against inland disasters, in short, there are three functional aspects - provision of ecological services, disaster prevention and human utilization - which are part of the human relationship to coastal zones. Each of these aspect is intricately linked. Consequently, humans must monitor and manage these three facts of the coastal zones in an integrated manner to ensure that the human relationship to coastal zones remains harmonious.

Creeks of the Indus Delta

Kajhar Creek

Sir Creek (it marks the coastal border between Pakistan & India)

Wari Creek

Dabbo Creek

Waddi Khuddi Creek

Korangi Creek

Chinna Creek

Clifton Creek

Ghizri Creek

Nango Creek

Ghoro Creek

Khudi Creek

Khudi Creek

Yaki Bunder Khuddi Creek

Char Creek

Motni Creek

Sisa Creek



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EDITORIAL

Let Karachi's interests come first, for a change!

As the newly elected local government representatives settle in to deliver upon their promise to the people, there exists an urgent need to develop and nurture meaningful participatory mechanisms between them and the civil society so that mutually beneficial strategies and partnerships for achieving commonly shared goals and objectives can be formulated and strengthened.

If we take the case of Karachi city, then the initial signs indicate a promising potential for growth in this direction. The elected officials, realizing the need of soliciting continued support and assistance of civil society groups for gaining greater acceptability of their plans and projects, have responded positively to the offer of assistance by local NGO's/CBO's and other citizen groups. The citizen groups also seem to comprehend the enormity of the task faced by the elected officials and are willing to give them the time needed to get their act together.

This spirit of harmony and understanding of each others legitimate needs and limita-

tions bodes well for the future. However, there are many challenges that need to be overcome and countless hurdles that have to be crossed if this good beginning is to lead to concrete, tangible, visible and sustainable development and progress of this megacity. Much needed finances have to be generated, qualified people, capable of delivering upon the tasks in hand have to be encouraged and facilitated to contribute, the evils of corruption and mismanagement have to be overcome. These are only a few of the long list of challenges that need to be tackled head on.

Success can only be achieved with sincerity of purpose and a willingness to accept and adopt good ideas and proposals, from wherever they may originate. Lets for once put the interests of this city, which provides shelter, employment and enjoyment to us all, above personal and group interests. This principle should hold for both public officials and civil society groups alike. Pray not let go to waste this promising opportunity for positive change. Lets all pull, for once, in the same direction! □



Unfortunately, coastal areas are staggering under an onslaught of human activity. Throughout much of the world, coastal zones are overcrowded, overdeveloped, and over exploited.

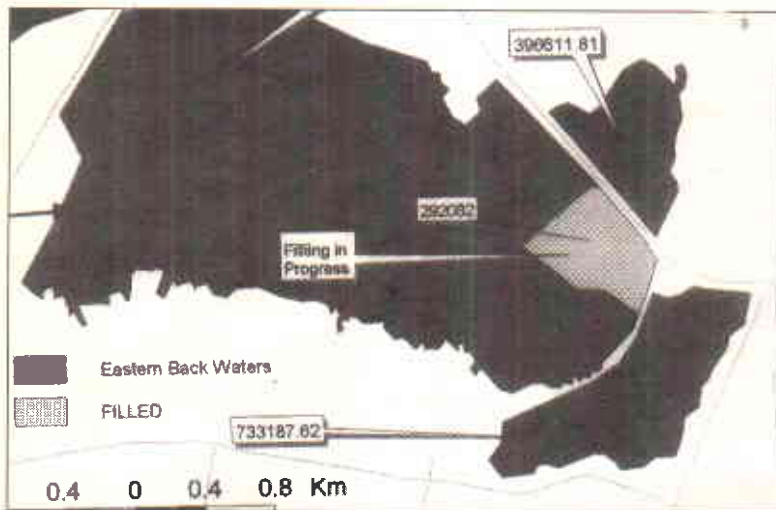
Coastal wetlands are highly productive ecosystem. Hectare for hectare, wetlands produce more

small animals; their canopies harbor hundreds of species of birds; and their estuaries shelter marine mammals. All told, some 80 species of salt-tolerant mangrove trees and shrubs cover roughly 24 million hectares throughout the world.

Pakistan is blessed with a coast-

minor creeks, mud flats and fringing mangroves. The Indus Delta Mangroves are unique in being the largest area of arid climate mangroves in the world.

However, one such area of significant environmental and economic importance. i.e. the Eastern Backwaters (including Chin-



The rot sets in as the illegal filling up of the eastern backwaters of Karachi is initiated

wildlife, both in numbers and variety, and more primary plant growth than any other habitat on earth. They filter sediment and pollutants washed off the land, trap valuable nutrients, and serve as protective buffers between land and sea. In addition, they provide vital spawning, nursery, and feeding grounds for thousands of species of fish and shellfish.

Biologists consider mangrove forests to be one of the most productive and biologically diverse wetlands on Earth, supplying habitats for more than 2,000 species of fish, shellfish, invertebrate, and epiphytic plants. Their root zones provide sanctuary for sponges, crested worms, crustacean, and molluscs, as well as algae; their inertial zones create habitats for a variety of crabs and

line of approx 1050 kilometers in length, of which 700 kilometers is in Baluchistan, the rest in Sindh. Nearly 2 million fishermen earn their living along this stretch. The coastline of Sindh forms part of the Indus Delta. It is a typical fan-shaped delta built up by the discharge of large quantities of silt washed down the Indus River from the Kara Koram and Himalaya mountain ranges. The present Delta covers an area of about 600,000 hectares and is characterized by 17 major creeks, innumerable

na Creek and the Mai Kolachi region) which is part of the Karachi coastal zone, sustaining precious wetland resources is now threatened with destruction. Read below the trail of events as land best left undisturbed is being built upon. and the role played by the parties involved:

Karachi Port Trust (KPT) is the authority to manage and maintain Karachi harbour, which is the principle port of Pakistan handling 90% of the imports and exports of the coun-

Pakistan is blessed with a coastline of approx 1050 kilometers in length, of which 700 kilometers is in Baluchistan, the rest in Sindh. Nearly 2 million fishermen earn their living along this stretch. The coastline of Sindh forms part of the Indus Delta.



try. The port is also the base for Pakistan Navy. It is also the main centre for all fish exports out of Pakistan. KPT has in its management control a large area of the Mangrove wetland i.e. the eastern and western backwaters which form part of the larger Indus delta. KPT has many responsibilities/interests, besides port activity within port limit. The mixed nature of the activities within its limits have combined to create unacceptable pollution levels.

The limits of Karachi Port were notified in 1875, 1887 then in 1940 and finally on 5th October 1991 by SRO 307 (KE)/91.

The Eastern Backwaters lagoon measures approximately 3000 acres and is virtually enclosed by built-up urban areas. The district of Keamari lies at its southwest corner, the East Wharf area of Karachi Port forms the western boundry, the city center of Karachi itself forms the northern boundry and the district of Clifton lies to the southeast. This backwater lagoon is founded on muddy sand and is stablized by the Mangrove Avicennia Marina. This water body, is an integral part of the harbor and forms part of a significant group of wet-

Around the same time, KPT began to orchestrate their own corrupt and malafide actions to benefit the members of its own KPTOCHS, they illegally allotted 130 acres to KPTOCHS.

This was all done without any EIA, without surveying the land or examining the economic and environmental impact, this would have on the harour and its hydraulic regime and the delicate mangrove eco-system.

few, laws are bent and the fundamental rights of the citizens are trampled upon. These actions have lead to economic loss, disappearance of amenity plots, open spaces, and have greatly contributed in deteriorating the urban and coastal environment of the city in general, including putting Karachi Port and Port Qasim in danger of silting up and therefore checking the economic life of the country to say nothing of damaging the coastal fishing industry on which 2 million people depend for their livelihood.

On 15th May 1989, the then Chief Minister of Sindh, Qaim Ali Shah wrote to the then Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto to instruct KPT to transfer 75 acres of land in Mai Kolachi to Government of Sindh (GoS) to overcome housing

lands showing diverse habitats. These wetlands are very important as nursery grounds for commercial fish and shrimp stocks, as well as for mangrove communities, migratory birds (especially waders) and nesting turtles.

In Pakistan, government officials and politicians have over a period of time, created a culture-whereby land belonging to the citizens of Pakistan is sold for political bribe for the benefit of a

shortage and to create (300 plots of 400/500 sq. yds.) and beautify city, thus triggering a process of massive corruption and continuing land scams in the area.

Around the same time, KPT began to orchestrate their own corrupt and malafide actions to benefit the members of its own Karachi Port Trust Co-operative Housing Society (KPTOCHS). They illegally allotted 130 acres to KPTOCHS. This was all done without any EIA, without surveying the land or examining the economic and environmental impact, this would have on the harbour and its hydraulic regime and the delicate mangrove ecosystem.

These 130 acres were leased to the KPTOCHS for a term of 25 yrs u/s 18(ii) of KPT Act 1886. This lease was further granted renewal for a period of 99 years in contravention of spirit and intent of the law without taking into consideration the adverse economic / environmental consequence contenting to articles 9 of the Constitution. In addition the adverse effect of silting of Karachi Port was also ignored.

Throughout this period from 1989 - 2001 i.e. 12 years, the newsprint media has printed many concerned articles about this grave economic and environmental issue.

It is unfortunate that throughout this period the federal and the Sindh environmental protection agencies whose statuary duty it is to take action and monitor any activity which will result in environmental disaster has failed to investigate this environmental catastrophe taking place. It is





Chinna Creek

The eastern and western backwaters lagoons form an integral part of Karachi Harbour since its construction in 1843. The Chinna Creek which is the main channel of Karachi harbour is a natural creek and part of the 17 creeks of the Indus Delta. The natural dredging of the harbour is based on the hydraulic regime and the eastern backwaters lagoon plays a decisive role in it and these aspects of the harbour have not changed to date. ▢

ironic that KPT's initiated EIA study done at a great cost to the country, dated 25 - 1 - 1996 recommended that the unplanned dredging and reclamation should be stopped immediately in the eastern backwaters.

It is felt that this unlawful and illegal allotment of the eastern backwaters will have a devastating adverse economic and environmental impact upon Karachi harbour. The activities of Pakistan Navy could also be hindered as a result of this collusion between KPT and Sindh government.

Public functionaries cannot relax rules and regulations in such a manner and KPT and Sindh government have therefore taken malafide and illegal action by showing undue favor to a few individuals as against the greater public interest.

In addition, they continue to misuse the legal system by filing frivolous suits and petitions to gain time for reclaim-

Some Hard Facts!

- The KPTOCHS scheme violates the town planning rules and regulations.
- Extension of the lease of 99 years is contrary to KPT Act Section 18(ii).
- The illegal and clandestine manner in which these backwaters are being reclaimed amounts to an infringement of the fundamental rights of the citizens of Karachi, guaranteed by Article 9,14,23 and 25 read with Articles 37 and 38 of the Constitution which is enforceable by the courts in exercise of their constitutional jurisdiction.

ing, dredging and completely destroying the sub system of the eastern backwaters and the hydraulic regime of the Karachi harbour.

It is therefore urgently required that the eastern and western backwaters should be declared an integral part of the Karachi harbour and they should not be used, sold or reclaimed for the benefit of private individuals and instead should only be used for the benefit of the citizens of the city and port relative activities.

The backwaters should also be declared as a protected area and all those encroachments, which have recently been put in place should be removed and backwaters should be brought to their original condition by planting mangroves and other related steps should be initiated to revitalize the damaged lagoon. ▢

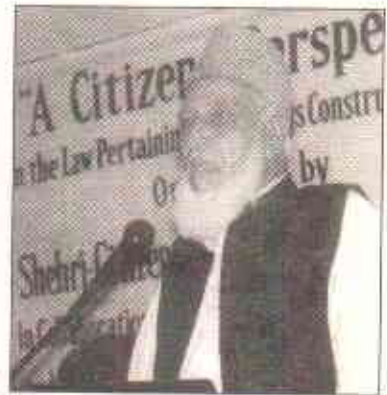


SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

Shehri Seminar: A Citizens Perspective on the law pertaining to buildings constructed in Karachi (Saturday, 20th October 2001, Hotel Avari Towers, Karachi)

Qazi Faez Isa, Member, Managing Committee, Shehri, in his introductory speech welcomed the City Chief Nazim, Mr. Naimatullah Khan to the seminar. Mr. Isa appreciated the introduction of elected government at the local level. He however said that the new local govt. should not just act as an "elected government" rather it should function as a "participatory government". Mr. Isa reminded the seminar participants that in the past we have had such experiences where elected officials after getting the vote from the people never bothered to consult them in the affairs of the government, with the result that they got alienated from the common man and the governments could not be sustained. He hoped that such would not be the case this time. He also suggested that the elected officials should reduce their dependence on the bureaucracy and depend more on the advice and

Naimatullah Khan,
Chief Nazim,
Karachi City District



Mr. Isa lauded the initiative of the city District Government of initiating tree plantation drive in Karachi and offered the help of Shehri in this regard.

Mr. Nooruddin Ahmed, representative of the Pakistan Engineering Council, in his speech said that city laws were divorced from actions taking place on ground. Population is increasing at a phenomenal pace, which cannot be stopped with the result that the urban infrastructure has collapsed. He said that presently there is only 30% "legalized" construction in the city.

Mr. Nooruddin pointed out that the city has no functioning "Master Plan". Both the 1974 and the 1992 Master Plans, he said, had not been notified. He requested the City Chief Nazim to update the Master Plan 2000, notify it and constitute a separate body for its implementation. He said that "Urban Renewal Plans", should be developed for all the newly constituted 18 Town Councils in the city. Mr. Nooruddin expressed confidence that local expertise for undertaking such an exercise is available and hiring of expensive foreign consultants would not be needed.

Mr. Nooruddin proposed that the "Downtown Area" including the areas of M. A. Jinnah Road,

Qazi Faez Isa,
Member,
Managing Committee,
Shehri-CBE



concerns of the people of Karachi.

With regards the issue of land use and zoning laws in Karachi city, Mr. Isa said that it was a simple issue of implementing "approved" plans on ground which was not happening. He said that Shehri opposed the proposed policy of regularization of illegal buildings in the city.



Nooruddin Ahmed,
Representative,
Pakistan Engineering
Council



Mansfield Street, Inverarity Road and Preedy Street, be declared "Traffic Free Zones", designated for tourism, business and recreation related activities.

Mr. Syed Kalimuddin, Chairman PCATP, said that if the proposed Ordinance (*Sindh Building Control Amendment Ordinance 2001*) is implemented in its entirety than it will open the flood gates of irregular activities in the city. He however said that there is nothing wrong in reviewing the laws as town planning bodies all over the world keep reviewing their rules/regulations normally at intervals of every ten years.

He said that there are reasons for the irregular constructions taking place in the city. Socio-economic conditions have worsened over the years, family sizes are growing and people cannot afford to buy new houses. There is both "social" destruction of the city and "physical" destruction of the city taking place.

Mr. Kalimuddin supported the decision to regularize the illegal buildings. He however said that the issue of great importance is the matter of imposing the right kind of penalties and proper disbursement of the money collected in the process. The money should go directly to the affected citizens and communities. He pointed out that in the proposed ordinance, the penalties suggested are very meagre and would therefore fail to act as a deterrent.

Mr. Naimatullah Khan, the City Chief Nazim in his speech said that it is very important to understand the "context" within which the deviations from law are taking place. There is lack of justice in society. Plans are not unified. He cited the issue of the Cantonment administered areas in the city where a separate set of building rules apply which have no relevance with what is happening in the rest of the city. He felt that it was impossible to implement any kind of a rational Master Plan within this context.

Mr. Khan was of the opinion that there is no harm in starting anew provided the past mistakes are not repeated in the future. He also asked all the citizen groups to point out the problems in the city in a timely manner and appreciated the work of Shehri in this regard.

Syed Kalimuddin,
Chairman, PCATP



The speeches were followed by an interactive discussion at the end of which, Mr. Khatib Ahmed, Chairperson, Shehri-CBE, concluded the seminar with a vote of thanks to all the participants. ▣



Seminar Participants



Shehri Seminar: Interaction between citizens and local government representatives (I)

(Saturday, 3rd November, 2001, Hotel Marriott, Karachi)

Shehri-CBE, has started a series of interactive seminars to develop a sustainable and people friendly partnership between elected officials of the local administration in Karachi and citizen groups

Mr. Khatib Ahmed, Chairperson, Shehri-CBE in his introductory speech, said that the constitution of Pakistan has given the people of Pakistan authority to manage the affairs of the state and exert their influence. However, the people seldom make use of these powers and do not question the works of the elected officials and administration. This has resulted in a situation where the elected officials and the bureaucracy make full use of their powers and in fact abuse them while the common man remains a silent spectator.

Mr. Ahmed appreciated the intro-

now, as the newly established District Government was embarking on another such exercise, lessons learned from the past misadventure need to be taken into account.

Mr. Anwar said that in the previous project, the experiment was carried out on a very big scale instead of first running a pilot scale project which caused problems. No effort was made to properly document and update the data on the project area. While DMC central put out a figure of 1327 tons/day for the garbage generated in the project area, the private contractor claimed that he lifted about 1800 tons/day from just one block of F. B. Area!

Mr. Anwar said that the public was not involved in the process in a meaningful way. They could have been educated on ways to reduce the garbage levels

generated at source. No effort was made to give the private contractor the option of recycling the waste, which could have added to the efficiency and greater interest in the project. No regulatory frameworks were formulated and no performance standards were prepared.

Mr. Anwar stressed that these mistakes would have to be avoided now if the district government

wanted to succeed in their efforts.

Ms. Sarah Siddiqui of KAWWS talked about her experience of working with the local government while trying to improve the conditions of her neighborhood. She said that presently due to the establishment of the new system, a lot of relocation of the staff was taking place which was causing problems. There is also some confusion with regards the jurisdiction of properties and services to be shared by the new town and union councils.

Ms. Siddiqui lamented the fact that in the newly established town/union council offices, the elected officials are normally absent with the result that citizens have to discuss their problems



**Khatib Ahmed,
Chairperson,
Shehri-CBE**



**Farhan Anwar,
Executive Member,
Shehri-CBE**

duction of elected local governments in the city and assured the elected representatives present in the seminar of Shehri's fullest cooperation in their work.

Mr. Farhan Anwar, Executive Member, Shehri-CBE, spoke on the issue of privatization of the solid waste management system in the city. He said that earlier in 1998, the then DMC Central had privatized some segments of the solid waste management system in sections of F. B. Area and North Karachi, however the experiment had failed. So



**Sarah Siddiqui,
Member,
KAWWS**

Noman Ahmad,
Chairman,
Department of
Architecture &
Town Planning,
NED Engineering
University,
Karachi



with the administration officials and the red tape is very much in place. Ms. Siddiqui stressed the importance of giving financial autonomy to the new local governments so that they could effectively solve the problems of the citizens.

Prof. Noman Ahmed, Chairman, Department of Architecture & Town Planning, NED Engineering University, spoke on the issue of the water and sewerage sector in Karachi. He said that presently, there was a shortfall of 150 mgd in the water supply in Karachi going by official figures. In actual case it could be more. He said that KW&SB was presently burdened

sewer networks but by the 13 natural nallahs of the city.

He said that efforts to privatize KW&SB failed as the KW&SB officials, the people, the builders and developers, political/religious parties were all against the strategy for privatization.

Prof. Noman also highlighted the issue of cross connections as water supply and sewerage line get mixed causing pollution of drinking water. This problem is most prevalent in Karachi West/Lyari. Areas which are not covered by KW&SB are also billed. Even if land is leased by someone, he or she would have to clear bills for services not provided. Prof. Noman urged for the development of a transitory framework, carrying out new projects first on pilot scales and proper documentation of the status of urban facilities /utilities.

Prof. Muhammad Nauman, Department of Electronics, NED Engineering University, talked about issues related with the administration and management of local govt. affairs. He said that a lot of problems are faced in



under a debt of Rs. 46 billion. Recovery is inefficient and there is massive over staffing (about 4500 going by 1996 figures). This is mostly due to political appointments. Much of the city population is buying potable water at a cost of about Rs. 7/gallon - Rs. 80/gallon.

Mr. Noman informed the participants that only 20% of the sewage generated in the city is treated prior to disposal. Most of sewage is carried not by the constructed

coordination between the various agencies operating in the city, some local some provincial and some federal including Cantons. These different tiers of governance have different interests which often clash.

Previously, the local govt. was generating about Rs. 500 crore from octroi.

This option of revenue generation is now gone, with no alternative financing mechanism in sight. In the past, the Administrator of KMC had the personal discretion of spending about Rs. 40 lac. This facility is also not available now. There is too much dependence on the federal govt. which is hindering work. Worker moral is down and they are not willing to work



L-R: Dr. Pervez Mehmood (Nazim, Liaquatabad Town),
Khatib Ahmed, Farooq Naimatullah
(Nazim, Gulberg Town)

anymore. Too many mafia type controls exist.

The speeches by citizen representatives were followed by a general discussion **Mr. Farooq Naimatullah, Nazim Gulberg Town Council** and **Dr. Pervez Mehmood, Nazim, Liaquatabad Town Council** participated in the discussion and said that they were determined to serve the people of this city to the best of their abilities and were presently targeting on reducing corruption levels in the local govt. system. They appreciated the role of organizations like Shehri and expressed their willingness to work with the citizen groups of the city.

Mr. Khatib Ahmed concluded the seminar with a vote of thanks to all the participants. □



Seminar Participants



Shehri Seminar: Interaction between citizens and local government representatives (II)

(Saturday, 16th November, 2001, Hotel Marriott, Karachi)

Navaid Husain[†], Executive Member, Shehri-CBE, in his introductory speech said that Pakistan was facing severe economic difficulties, and was under the burden of billions of dollars worth of local and foreign debt. He said that compared with us, India and China had protected and developed their industries and financial systems with the result that they now represent much more stable economies than ours. Malaysia which was economically very much like us about 25 years ago is now producing five different types of motor vehicles (Proton Cars).

Mr. Hussain said that Rs. 20 lacs each have been given to the 18 Town Councils in Karachi. He posed the question; How can any

laws are a major cause of system defects in the urban public utility system. He demanded a complete ban on illegal buildings and praised the efforts of Shehri in this regard. He said that completed schemes are handed over to KW&SB for maintenance. It is impossible for KW&SB to provide the services when there is no provision in their plans and budgets for such work. Similarly in Katchi Abadies, no system is built but the blame falls on KW&SB. Mr. Chandio informed the seminar participants that KW&SB is now part of the City Government and its functions will further be devolved into the Town.

Mr. Ahmed Qasim Parekh, Nazim, Jamshed Town Council, in his speech said that over the years massive corrup-

tion has taken place in Pakistan which has now brought the country to a very sorry state of affairs. He said that in the period between 1970-87, Rs. 2 lac per day were written off by the banks, while in the period between 1996-99, the figure rose to Rs. 2 crore 40 lac!

He said that in 1948, the GNP of Pakistan and Japan was the same



Navaid Husain,
Member, Managing
Committee,
Shehri-CBE

i.e. \$112. Now, while Japan's GNP has grown to a whopping \$ 34000, ours is a paltry \$360. Mr. Parekh expressed his resolve to work for the betterment of the city and demanded from the citizens, a greater involvement in city affairs.

Mr. Khalid Iqbal, Incharge, Distribution & Works, KESC, in his presentation said that presently 1800 MW electricity is being produced in the city, by KESC, KANUPP and the private power plants of Gul Ahmed and Tapal. He said that there is about 6% - 7% increase in power demand every year.

He said that theft, in addition to system losses are a major concern. He said that 38% electricity is lost due to these reasons, (18% technical losses, 20% theft) costing about Rs. 10 billion annually. Mr. Ahmed said that 105 MW power is consumed by Kunda connections causing a loss of Rs. 130 million per month!

Mr. Ahmed said that power theft takes place not only in low income areas but in localities like KDA Scheme # 1 and P.E.C.H.S. He said that presently there is no meaningful consultation between the



Ahmed Qasim Parekh,
Nazim, Jamshed Town,
Karachi

meaningful development work be carried out within such a budget? He demanded that half the income tax paid by the people should come back to the people in terms of enhanced social and development sector work.

Mr. Suleman Chandio, Chief Engineer Sewerage, KW&SB, in his presentation said that landuse



Suleman Chandio,
Chief Engineer,
Sewerage,
KW&SB



Khalid Iqbal, Incharge,
Distribution &
Works, KESC



various utility agencies in the city which seriously complicates matters. In this regard, he recommended the establishment of a "Utility Board". He said that KESC has undertaken Poverty Alleviation Programmes in the low income areas, to reduce the possibilities of power theft. He informed that out of about 4 lac Kunda connections, 1 1/2 lac have been regularized.



Seminar Participants

The speeches were followed by a lively question and answer session

after which, Mr. Navaid Husain concluded the seminar with a vote of thanks to the speakers and the participants. □

Season's Greetings

*Shehri Staff and Management
extend to its members*

*Eid Mubarak
& Merry Christmas
and best wishes for a
Happy New Year*



URBAN RENEWAL

Anyone for improving Karachi's environment?

Nooruddin Ahmed urges the citizens of Karachi to rise up and join in efforts to make Karachi a better place to live in.

The city of Karachi has systematically and deliberately been brought to the state that it is in, by people at all levels of our society for their short term political and financial benefits and with the passage of time more and more different elements are joining in the loot and plunder. The guiding rules and regulations as well as the relevant institutions were either demolished or made redundant deliberately so as to facilitate easy access to the growing abundance of easy money. The really sorry part of all of this is that the greatest damage to our city has been done by people who are its permanent residents either by active participation or passive connivance.

The question now comes to our mind whether anything can be done to reverse all this rot or should we get up and migrate, for those of us who cannot or will not migrate there is really no choice but to pool all our resources and take control of our environment and clean up the mess.

Karachi is one of the largest megapolis in the world. The size of our city and its growth pattern is both frightening and at the same time provide an opportunity for all its residents to improve the quality of their life if the city planning is updated realistically and managed by the Authority and the inhabitants efficiently.

The first step in regulating and managing this city has been taken by the Federal Government by dividing Karachi into 18 Towns, thus accepting the fact that its physical management is not efficiently possible as a single unit. However, keeping in the tradition of avoiding hard choices, the Federal Government has side stepped the issue of Cantonment Boards which are independent islands

before we put forward any proposal or recommendations.

Since Karachi was planned and developed as per the standards set for other international cosmopolitan cities in the world, it stands apart from other cities of Pakistan which have developed as per their historical geographical location which reflects the local culture, whereas Karachi has a modern

and more open society, straddling the traditional and modern trends, as exist in for example cities like Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Since the authorities in Karachi failed to keep pace with the population growth of Karachi and the needed government leadership gradually faded and disap-

peared, different actors took over the city and filled the gap. Very rapidly, a vibrant and modern city is being brought down to the level of the rest of our hinter land.

The key to steer the urban growth in the right direction and an integrated pattern is master planning. A master plan is basically a policy document, which sets a course of action required to remove existing deficiencies and cater to the future requirements of the city.

To execute this concept, it is requested that an independent Master Plan Department be immediately established to work directly under the Nazim with the task



Lets turn Karachi into a city of dreams!

scattered in different places in this city.

No development aspect of the city of Karachi confuses the mind of a common citizen more than its physical appearance and multiplicity of its development agencies. A city which is being looked after by more than two dozen development organizations and departments and which can boast of about 15 major land holding agencies has undergone unspeakable decay of urban services and deterioration of living environment.

It is essential that we first identify and accept the existing facts



to first make a Master Plan for the whole of Karachi which should be notified by the Government so that it cannot be manipulated and misused as the 1974 and 2000 Master Plans are being done.

It is a matter of great satisfaction for the citizens of Karachi that the Chief Executive, while launching the Package for Economic Revival of Karachi (PERK) on 14 April, 2001 included the preparation of a Master Plan of Karachi. The Master Plan & Environment Control Department, of the KDA has already initiated an exercise for updating the database of the plan of KDMP-2000.

The KDMP-2000 was finalized in June 1990. Surprisingly, even today the plan has not been officially approved or made an established plan for Karachi.

Master plans cannot move by themselves. These are implemented through institutionalized arrangement, which join all concerned agencies together to honour their commitments, make their investment decisions in line with the plans/proposals, and take all possible measures to accomplish their part of the city development programme. Without a legal cover to the plan, this objective cannot be achieved.

Unfortunately, some elements within the Government do not feel comfortable in being strait jacketed by the provision of such legal provisions and planning.

For planning and implementing the orderly growth of the megacity of Karachi, as per KDMP-2000, we are informed by the KDA that a very strong and well organized planning authority has been proposed in the form of the Karachi Division Physical Planning Agency (KDPPA). An ordinance for the creation of which has

already been drafted and submitted to the Government and this is being vetted by the Law Department. The agency will function directly under the proposed city Government with representation of all the concerned agencies. It will cover the entire proposed new Karachi City District irrespective of the areas under Federal, Provincial and Local control. With the establishment of the KDPPA, hopefully urban development plans will see the light of day.

In addition to the proposal on the KDMP-2000, a project which the City Nazim should immediately adopt under his direct control is the redevelopment of the City Centre which will greatly benefit the city of Karachi.

We have to begin by acknowledging that the city has been built not for cars only but for the enjoyment of its people. What we need to promote is a healthy and livable city rather than a motorized, fume-filled harsh concrete jungle. It is ironic when we see photographs of Empress Market area where every so often the vendor carts are removed and soon they again congregate. The planners must understand that traffic should be rationalized so that it skirts the area which rightly should be given over to the people of the city.

Our experience has also proved that people want to enjoy their city and the temporarily pedestrianized area are creating an arena for activities that are not possible otherwise, giving a sense of freedom and enjoyment to all, regardless of age, creed, language, status where people rub shoulders with each other. And this is what we would like to see in Karachi on a permanent basis.

We need a major intervention to make the city livable. Since most of our open spaces have been

usurped, it is now important, as is done all over the world to pedestrianize as many streets as possible, and to landscape them with trees and vegetation.

By converting an area bounded by M. A. Jinnah Road, Mansfield Street, Invrriority Road and Victoria Road / Preedy Street in a Central Square, Karachi could gain a large open space as a piazza - a city centre that every civilized city possesses but is lacking in Karachi. This bounded area should be closed to all vehicular traffic with the exception of an exclusive shuttle service operated only for the internal transportation of visitors and shoppers.

A special Re-development Authority for this bounded area could be established for Planning, Development and Regulation of all aspects of this Scheme.

The growth of Karachi cannot and should not be stifled or retarded, it should be encouraged and efficiently managed by channalizing its growth through planning and realistic regulations.

Karachi has the potential to provide opportunities and direction for the financial benefit of its residents and a tremendous economic growth and well being for the dynamic people of Pakistan, provided our City Government has the vision required.

Credit

This paper has been prepared by studying and quoting from the compilation of the papers read at the 'Seminar on Town Planning' organized by the 'Secretariat of the Ombudsman Sindh. □

(Nooruddin Ahmed is an Engineer and Member, Pakistan Engineering Council)

URBAN SANITATION

Water and sanitation sector: Issues for discussion & review

Noman Ahmed analyses the water and sanitation sector in Karachi, identifies issues and problems and comes up with strategies for improving the situation.

This brief over view will focus on two aspects - the institutional arrangement of water supply and sanitation and the status of locality level infrastructure, especially in low-income localities.

Existing situation

- Total water supply to Karachi is sufficient to serve half of the total population. Total demand is 594 mgd while the supply is about 435 mgd (according to KWSB). About 30 percent of this supply is lost due to leakage, wastage or theft.
- KWSB has accumulated a debt of Rs. 46 billion as was reported in several government documents. The best solution that was found by the government was to privatize KWSB. GoS proceeded with this idea which was severely criticized by all the cross-sections of the society.
- KWSB has a major problem of recovering its dues. According to KWSB sources, out of 1.1 million retail bills issued, only 161,000 (which amount to roughly 7 percent) would be recovered.
- Overstaffing through political appointments caused a major problem. It is reported that around 4500 additional staff was recredited in junior cadres in 1995-96.
- For materializing even the

most important development and expansion projects, KWSB has to rely on donor assistance. K2 and K3 projects could only be handled after donor assistance was made available.

- KWSB is unable to cater to the primacy and secondary scale needs of the city. It hardly deals with 20 percent of the bulk sewerage generated.
- Most low-income localities have to resort to purchase of water through different modes of water vending. It costs Rs. 20 per gallon through a commercial tanker, Rs. 07 per gallon through a KWSB tanker, Rs. 80 per gallon through a donkey cart, Rs. 30 per gallon through a pushcart, Rs. 50 per gallon through a bishtee and Rs. 35 per gallon through neighbour/water entrepreneurs pipe.
- Water supply to the city has to be facilitated through outside sources which are as far as 150 kilometers. There is a massive conveyance factor associated to the supply.
- Similarly, although the city has three sewerage treatment plants, a large amount of sewage passes into the sea



A case of cross connection: A water supply line passing through a garbage dump

untreated.

- People are hesitant to pay dues because they do not get the proportional service; some consider water as a priceless commodity; few are of the view that as they obtain water from a non-KWSB source, it is not binding on them to pay the water bill.
- The KWSB interprets that the PSP has the capacity to generate an efficient and equitable water supply and sanitation system that will be available to all the cross sections of the society.
- There are more than several hundred katchi abadies in the city of Karachi from which 326 settlements are being surveyed by the OPP where people have laid their own water and sewerage lines and spent around 450 million rupees on these services. The government also invested around the same amount on these service. In this way, around 900 million rupees have been spent on water and sanitation. Where-



as, Government has not recognized the people's investments and their efforts. Therefore these efforts and investments of people are not the part of any planning processes. It is not clear as to how the people's investment will be accounted for in any planning and development move, even those related to privatization.

Privatization

- The KWSB staff were largely against PSP. They were of the view that certain administrative changes and stringent measures of revenue recovery could improve the water supply and sanitation service,
- While builders and developers generally favored privatization, they mentioned that the objective of privatization should be to improve the level of service.
- The local politicians were averse to the idea of privatization. They were of the view that the unemployment will increase considerably if privatization is undertaken.
- The consultants considered privatization as a means to generate private monopolies. They did not consider PSP as a user-friendly choice for the poor.
- The concerned citizen groups have a mixed opinion. A group considered privatization as viable option since the present system did not provide enough protection to the paying citizens. Another section cited its reservation since the privatization would end the public control and give rise to unemployment.

- The city administrators also rejected the idea of privatization on the same grounds.
- Residents of both planned and unplanned areas were against privatization.

Locality Level Infrastructure

- The tail end settlements which are still growing and expanding in size and volume, face problems of access to water supply related infrastructure.
- Illegal connections are common phenomenon in almost all the low income (*and even middle and high income*) locations in Karachi. In Katchi-abadis, the water supply network has been laid by various formats of local government arrangements or by the efforts of the people themselves.
- In low income areas where no water has been supplied through the laid down pipes during the past, the water lines have been damaged beyond the possibility of repair and maintenance.
- Old and obsolete lines are weak and become permeable. As in most cases, these lines are laid close to the sewerage lines. Mixing of sewerage water is a common occurrence.
- In several cases, the maps and up to date plans of the water infrastructure are not available. The tasks of operation and maintenance obviously become difficult in such situations.
- Most of the locations in Karachi West are affected by the absence of supply from Hub Dam. As a consequence, people under desperation

often damage the infrastructure themselves to obtain supply.

- Due to uneven settlement patterns, the sewerage generated from external sources pass through low income settlements. It spills out whenever there is any blockage, obstruction or difference of level.
- In many cases, the sewerage system, which is either laid by the people themselves or by a local government institution, ceases to function due to absence of a secondary drain/nala/sewer.
- Old and worn out internal system is a constant problem. The passage of heavy vehicles, encroachments and routine blockage further aggravate the problem.
- Areas where internal drains fall into open storm water drains or backyard drains (*which are mostly uncovered*) are affected due to continuous dumping of solid waste.
- People and their organizations respond to immediate problems only. When a drain or manhole overflows to an unbearable stage, only then a private kundiman, KWSB or KMC is approached for help.
- Theft of manhole covers and slab covers is a constant maintenance problem. In katchi-abadies, this is sold in the market for Rs. 60-90.
- Pumping facilities are normally out of order and face perpetual problems of maintenance and repair. Jamila Street Pumping Station has experienced major breakdowns during 1998-99.
- Planned schemes where delay



in occupancy is observed now show perpetual problems of operation and maintenance.

- Densification of low income settlements lead to increase in the sewage volume. In Liaquatabad this is a common problem in most of its blocks.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The privatization strategy that is prepared by the concerned decision makers only remedies the financial part and does not guarantee a logical service improvement.
- Absence of commitment from the different ranks of management of KWSB will pose a serious problem in the application of privatization strategy.
- The dynamics that led to the creation and application of privatization clearly suggests that it has been imposed as a macro level decision without gauging the fundamental ground realities.
- While the KWSB has been declared, as financially impotent, the reasons that have led to this state of affairs are nei-

ther documented nor analyzed during the decision making.

- The various linkages that operate in the water supply and sanitation sector are not accounted for.
- From the proposed privatization strategy, there appears no convincing evidence as to how the system would improve after privatization since the proposed private sector is advised to focus only on tariff enforcement and improving revenue collection.
- Compound after effect of privatization of water at the proposed tariff rates will be very high, though it is not accounted for or analyzed.
- Conceptually, the objectives of privatization need to be revised.
- An approach should be devised whereby water as a public good can be supplied to the people through appropriate participation of private sector.
- Structurally, the KWSB's services may be desegregated.

- As proposed by various stakeholders and also apparent from the balance sheet of KWSB, a concentrated effort must be made to recover maximum water charges based on the existing billing structure.

- Sustenance and performance of internal infrastructure depended on its link with the secondary infrastructure. Wherever this has been made possible, the system has worked.

- Community groups/CBOs are the only vehicles of local improvement with respect to O&M of infrastructure.

- The pilot studies unveil the basic status of O&M of the infrastructure in low income settlements. There is ample need to research into the complex issues related to the laying, contracting, performance, repair and maintenance of infrastructure. □

(Noman Ahmed is Chairman, Department of Architecture & Town Planning, NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi)

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Shehri's projects and activities and
participating in our work
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www.shehri.org



URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Illegalities committed by whom?

Navaid Husain writes about the dilemma faced by city planners in trying to sustain the development of a mega city like Karachi where rules of law are flouted with impunity, where mafias control public services instead of properly functioning public service agencies and where public financing mechanisms for development projects are wholly inadequate.

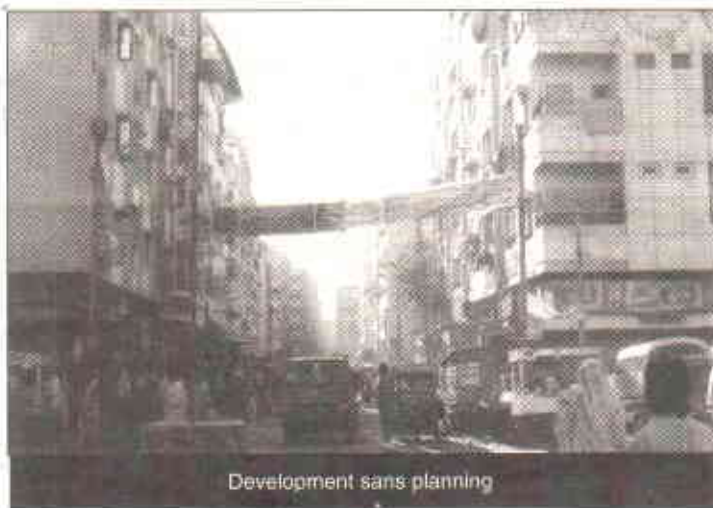
There is a question of 260 illegal sealed buildings that is crossing the minds of a few people. They may be some builders who have money invested in these buildings and are caught up as long as these are not declared legal. Perhaps the other lot is people who have put in money into these buildings and for years are waiting for them to perhaps be declared legal. Then there are the low paid government functionaries who turned a blind eye to them.

In this country as with so many under developed nations, all business rules are flouted. A few months back, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) asked me to come across and verify a client's construction bills, found that the incorrect billing amounted to rupees seven and a half million. I said to the NAB officers if you go into this then all business being conducted in Pakistan are incorrect. All of us agreed on this. The point I got across to them was that in a sense all of us were corrupt because we were made that way or were forced into this due to reasons beyond our control.

Practically ninety percent of the builders have black money they want to invest and very quickly get a return. When I talked to builders just wanting to find out why they do not want to invest in industries instead of getting caught up in this, their response

many cases if the Karachi Building Control Authorities clear the building for ground plus four, they say to the would-be-occupants that they will get approval later. That is another way of getting money against a low rise building where they claim they will convert in into a high rise through "penalties". So actually, for a four floor building, they get money-in-advance for a ground plus ten!

Can you imagine the money they have with which to play around in either the bank or any other "lucrative trade".



Development sans planning

was that they do not want to invest in industries as there are too many agencies involved. In addition, perhaps they have a good grid with government functionaries who give an OK and look the other way when illegalities are committed.

Then they have fictitious names against which they buy the land so no one knows who owns the land. Then of course they overbook their shops and flats and they sit over this for years and after much pressure return this original amount to the people whom booked the properties. In

These builders default with various building bylaws and construction methodology rules. Not wanting or waiting for the concrete to mix, not set up proper shuttering, reduce on structural steel in their roof slabs. There are too many rules to talk about here.

Then let us look at the would-be-occupants of these buildings. Firstly, they are ignorant of their rights, civic rights. Of others, perhaps greedy, as they want something for a lower price by wanting to blindly put their money in advance. Perhaps they do not want receipts as they have illegal



money. Then if some builder wants to build according to the law, these occupants would raise their fingers at this person and say he is ripping them off. Occupants are also paying a negligible amount of property tax.

When we look at the seismic faults that took place and hundreds of buildings collapsed in Turkey and South Korea, I read a comment that part of the reason these buildings collapsed is due to the inability of the occupants to pay for anti-seismic construction! Also over a period of time seismic conditions change. Should all the buildings also undergo changes? Perhaps if the seismic conditions change and the construction companies are not to blame for this. The government should tell these people what seismic conditions to build for.

Then what are all of us going to do about old buildings where seismic conditions were unknown? We are living in a low-level economy where if we start asking for these facilities either there will be no construction or the companies will charge so much that it will be out of reach.

All of us know the property prices in Bombay and New Delhi are ten times as much as in Karachi! In Bombay you would have to spend huge amounts to buy a flat in the heart of the city, whereas in Karachi it is easy to buy one and at one-tenth the price.

Then sacked-and-turned government functionaries are always there to do as you please for the right price, and in addition,

many officials, all the politicians (apart from a few). In any area, we want to book our flats we do not care for the civic rights or planning laws. If our life savings are caught up in some building we will not care for anyone's civic rights or planning laws.

In every agency in Pakistan there is increasing corruption. This is because if we compare the cost of living and convert it internationally we recognize that especially the lower middle class paid worker cannot survive simply on their salaries. They do not pay their property taxes, get free water and perhaps steal electricity. All governmental agencies are close to financial collapse.

The question to be asked is if all of us do not contribute towards these facilities, is the government going to foot the bill? The government can only continue by defaulting on their external loans.

Then owners of Heritage Buildings get an extremely small amount of rent. What are these owners suffering for? They should either get permission to reoccupy these possessions with a financial rebate from the government or then some moneyed people should buy these properties or renovate them.

If no attention is given to these buildings they will wither away due to the owners apathy or the owners will just let these projects collapse.

There are thousands of high rises in Karachi. In fact very few buildings have known architects, structural, electrical or plumbing engineers. If the building contractor employed these people his profit would go down or he would ask the occupants to pay this as part of the costs and then the price would be too high. Perhaps the contractor has black money for this.

Because of negligible security in this country if cars are parked in the basement and it explodes due to bombs in it, there will be a large number of casualties.

Therefore, if a car is not thoroughly checked it is better that the drivers parks it outside. In addition, should the occupants pay for this unused car-parking space?

What of the case of projects in the city center where there were cinemas, illegally broken down and shops and flats built? Aside from the builder, the building author-

ities and ordinary citizens are also to blame. So in short all three are to blame. And this is the tragedy all over Pakistan. The

In every agency in Pakistan there is increasing corruption. This is because if we compare the cost of living and convert it internationally we recognize that especially the lower middle class paid worker cannot survive simply on their salaries. They do not pay their property taxes, get free water and perhaps steal electricity.



builder makes a killing in profits. The planning authorities make a much smaller amount and the lucky occupant gets a flat or shop!

I know of low paid Karachi Building Authority officials who share flats for "entertainment". Also one has come across middle-men who operate as a go between on "Heritage Structures" (not to be demolished), if the owner and buyer are willing to pay the price, he will get it de-listed i.e. to be pulled down.

Then there are absurd planning laws whereby some client can only build a ground plus four floor structure on I. I. Chundrigar Road, the heart of Karachi's business district!

And if there is an "important" client as with Saima Towers on this road, the prime minister gives "special permission" to build a huge structure with thoughtless architecture. And incidentally what happened to the penalty the builder was supposed to pay? Although Pakistan's population will hit zero growth in a hundred and fifty years time when we reach 450 million or so and we will get to be the third most populous nation. Over the years, we have moved up the population

index card.

But aside from this huge population growth think of Karachi where in each area the planning authorities laid down building rules where there would be some similarity between buildings. Think of areas like Gulshan Iqbal where houses be there three room apartments or high rises with similarity in building form so they match.

I remember having a discussion with Dr. Farooq Sattar When he was Mayor of Karachi. He said even he did not know of the number of different planning bodies in Karachi! One needs an umbrella controlling Karachi's Master plan and Town Planning. Then this body should be removed from all political parties as

are with Turkey.

CPLC and I personally fought a court case against the illegal handing over of Karachi Hill Park plots to private persons. All the people employed in Planning Bodies should be paid proper salaries so there is no incentive to indulge in corruption.

This planning body should carry out a comprehensive town plan for all of Karachi rather than let all the planning bodies do their own thing.

Some thinking needs to go into this. Its better if planning laws are thought of as one day there will be a population of 40 million in Karachi! All along the highway from Karachi to Peshawr, there will be urban growth. This is a different situation from a developed country where there is a negative population growth. As one has maintained, there must be reformation of priorities.

Some thinking needs to go into this. Its better if planning laws are thought of as one day there will be a population of 40 million in Karachi! All along the highway from Karachi to Peshawr, there will be urban growth. This is a different situation from a developed country where there is a negative population growth. As one has maintained, there must be reformation of priorities.

Karachi Building Control Authority is only the controlling body for aesthetics and Heritage. If one wants to take action against illegal buildings we should be bound legally to pay their property charges. Laws must be strengthened to ensure that these taxes are paid as without this the city will have no funds.

It is far better to look at illegal housing (katchi basties) and re plan these, provide a flat to each occupants and sell the rest of these. The builders must match the government in funding these. In addition, look at areas, which are built up, demolish these, and come up with high rises there.

After all no one want to live 30 miles from his work place and clog up the traffic commuting back and forth. I remember talking to someone about the rising price of land and I said people with low incomes could not afford to live in them. The person I was talking to did not care for this and said they should not be allowed to sell their property. □

Navaid Husain is an Architect and Member, Managing Committee, Shehri-CBE



How to fund the City/Town Government of Karachi

by Khatib Ahmed,

1. All wealth and taxes are created / generated at tehsil, district, town, and city levels. The citizens creating/generating this wealth/revenue have the right to manage and share its fruits and benefits.
2. So the citizens of Karachi have a right to the wealth/revenue generated by the metropolis of Karachi.
3. Of the total taxes paid by Karachi, its City District Government's share, as per formulas developed in various countries/cities (see note-1 below) should be:-

In all federal taxes	15%
In all provincial taxes	45%
In all local taxes	100%

4. The revenues generated in the city/town of Karachi are:

Tax	Rs. billion (arab)	%	Rs. billion (arab)
Federal			City District Government share
Income	61.00		
CED	11.40		
Sales (domestic)	3.40		
Sales (imports)	34.70		
Cutoms Duty	53.00		
Total	163.50	15%	24.52%
Provincial	3.70	45%	1.66%
		Grand Total	26.18

5. Karachi City (KMC) total income/revenue last year (July 2000-June 2001) was only Rs. 4.70 billion!!
6. There are 18 towns in Karachi City, they can utilize 100% of local taxes. The Towns will get a share from the Karachi City pool.

1. Source: "Karachi: Gateway to Pakistan A Profile" by Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Khatib Ahmed is Chairperson, Shehri-CBE



SPOTLIGHT ON THE PRESS

Retired railmen offer free services for KCR

DAWN, December 11, 2001

The Central President of the Pakistan Railway Workers Federation (PRWF), Manzoor Ahmed Rizvi, disclosed that representatives of the PRWF had offered at a meeting with city government officials that 150 experienced workers, including drivers, firemen, guard, STE booking clerks, linemen and others, required to reactivate the KCR, were ready to work without salary for one year. These volunteers were retired railwaymen, he said.

Mr. Razi said arguments about shortage of funds for the project did not hold ground.

City govt. to set up Investment Promotion Board

THE NEWS, December 3, 2001

The city government has planned to set up an Investment Promotion Board to plan, establish, manage and control all the affairs of the industrial estates falling within jurisdiction of the city government.

In this board, the City Nazim will be the chairman, while City Naib Nazim to be the vice chairman and Executive District Officer will be the secretary.

The board will coordinate and cooperate for investment growth in the city problems like law and order situation, lack of civic amenities which included water, sewerage, electricity, gas and telephone will be taken for immediate resolution. Development projects, maintenance and tax collection mechanism also to be improved with consensus of this board.

EU pledges 100m euros to lower poverty

DAWN, December 21, 2001

The European Union will provide all type of economic assistance to Pakistan, including 100 million euros, for poverty alleviation, Belgian Ambassador in Islamabad Igor Haustrate said here on Thursday.

Speaking at a meeting, organized by the English Speaking Union of Pakistan (ESUP), the Belgian envoy, who is also the head of the EU mission in Islamabad, said that after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Pakistan had got a chance to improve its economic condition.



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.

Illegal / Unauthorized Commercial Construction on Residential Plot No. 1594, Street No. B-2, Madina Masjid Road, Haroonabad, Khadda, Karachi.

It is submitted to draw your organization's attention towards the aforesaid matter.

In spite of my several verbal and written requests, no action has been taken so far and the illegal unauthorized construction in question is in progress. The builders with regards the illegal project have built ground plus four floors within two months, with mutual consent of KBCA officers.

An early action in this regard shall be highly appreciated.

(Haji Muhammad Khan)

*Son of Ameeruddin Khan, NIC No. 505-53-001093,
Resident of Plot no. 1595, Street no. B-2, Haroon-
abad, Madina Masjid Road, Khadda, Market.*



Demolition of Un-Authorised Construction on Plot No. 393, PIB Colony, Karachi

With due respect and humble submission we the undersigned are taking liberty to step forward few lines which we hope will seek your kind consideration.

1. The owner of plot no. 393 PIB Colony is planning to construct flats and shops on Plot No. 393 PIB Colony, Karachi against the existing rules and regulations.
2. There is a group of brokers in PIB 'Colony, and this group has been busy since long in purchasing plots, construction of 6-8 flats and commercial shops in a residential area and finally selling those flats to different parties.
3. This situation will create the following problems for us the residents of the area.
 - i. A place which was meant to be used by one family will now be utilized by 6-8 families.
 - ii. This will create electricity, water, parking and serious sewerage problems.
 - iii. Residential area will become a commercial area.

We would like to request you to take an early action for the unauthorized construction which is against the building plan.

*Javaid Sadiq
395, PIB Colony, Karachi
(On behalf of residents of the area)*



YOUNG VOICES

Editorial

The City Of...

Leave it to a group of heritage wallahs to make us realise what Karachi is all about. Ignoring the broken sewerage lines, power breakdowns and potholes which we all have or should have grown used to by now, the Karavan Karachi Festival 2001, which was launched in March, focussed on the city's cultural and historical landmarks like Denso Hall, Frere Hall and the Trinity Church.

The best thing about all the street fests could easily be the fact that as mainly children were involved in all the activities, it provided a chance for the families to fully enjoy themselves, while the children learnt about the heritage sites of the city in an enjoyable manner.

September 2001 saw the historical and cultural legacy of Karachi being celebrated when a series of events was held during the whole month encompassing activities as diverse as a fashion show at the site of the old Hindu Temple in Manora, to a donkey cart race at the Jehangir Kothari parade.

September 2001 has come and gone, but this should not be the end. Those who participated in the events and even those who did not, now know exactly what Karachi has to offer.

Lets keep the spirit alive!

TIT BITS

Do you drink black tea? If not, then may be it is a good time to start doing so, for if researchers in America are to be believed, 4 cups of black tea a day may reduce any chance of coronary disease.

According to the researchers, tea contains anti-oxidant called flavonoids which may help prevent cholesterol from damaging arteries.

Think Awhile

If you realize you aren't so wise today
as you thought you were yesterday,
you're wiser today.

For the ones that are gone

Here I stand feeling so scared, so cold.

There they lie, the people, their stories untold.
They once walked on this earth with health and
strength.

For the world a source of happiness and
pleasure they meant.

They loved their kind and for them they cared.

Joys, happiness and sorrows with all
they shared.

Some in the wilderness survived.

Some on the old memories thrived.

Few could not find love and peace,

When they found it, their heartbeats did cease.

For some the life was a total mystery;

They drowned in the ocean of death, their
existence, a history.

They lived with mighty desires and goals.

In the bosom of the earth lie their sorry souls.

It's here where they sleep, leaving the world
lost and forlorn.

Their dear ones now cry and mourn.

Few passed away unsung, unwept;

In the deep dark dwelling their hearts
did find rest.

When all of them lived and had goals,
did they know;

Know that life is an illusion and all have to go.

– **Bushra Tariq**



Contagious Emotions

It was early in the Vietnam war and an American platoon was hunkered down in some rice paddies, in the heat of a firefight with the Vietcong. Suddenly a line of six monks started walking along the elevated berms that separated paddy from paddy. Perfectly calm and poised, the monks walked directly toward the line of fire.

"They didn't look right, they didn't look left. They walked straight through," recalls David Busch, one of the American soldiers. "It was really strange, because nobody shot at 'em, and after they walked over the berm, suddenly all the fight was out of me. It just didn't feel like I wanted to do this any more, at least not that day. It must have been that way for everybody, because everybody quit. We just stopped fighting."

Source: Emotional Intelligence by Daniel Goleman.

CANS CAN

*Collect old cans; dont throw them out
That's what recycling is all about
Cans just clutter up our land
So recycle them and take a stand
Find them, scrunch them, give a mash
Then turn them in, and you'll get cash
And even if you dont get wealthy
Recycling keeps our earth more healthy*

Courtesy:

Earth Book for Kids By Linda Schwartz

Nuts Galore!

Winters are back and so are all the nuts that are a part and parcel of winter. They are not just tasty, but have beneficial properties as well and can be used in several ways.

Peanuts

Many sweets can be made in peanut oil and artificial ghee can also be prepared. If used moderately, peanuts have no adverse effects.

Walnuts

Their oil is used for treating various skin diseases. Taken by itself, it is beneficial in constipation. Yet, it is advisable not to have more than 5-7 at one time as an excess causes irritation in the throat and mouth.



Pistachios

It is believed that pistachios increase the power of retention and make the heart, stomach and kidneys stronger. Still, a word of warning to all those who continuously watch their scales, pistachios also increase body fats.

Almonds

Almonds supposedly improve memory, but that is not all; Almonds can help those with diabetes, reduce dryness in throat, cool down the body in summer and help in keeping warm in winter.

Pine Kernels

Better known to us as the "chilghoza", these help a great deal in keeping the body warm in winter. It is advisable to eat them after a meal, as eating before may lead to a loss in appetite.

Editor, Young Voices: Kiran Bashir Ahmad



ASK SHEHRI

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

- Q. What will be the fate of KDA with regards the new local government setup in Karachi?

*Ali Sattar,
Sharafabad, Karachi.*

- A. KDA will devolve into the Karachi city District Administration on 1st January, 2002.

- Q. How much organic waste is generated in Karachi?

*Hina Siddiqui,
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi.*

- A. Approximately 45% of the waste generated in Karachi is organic in nature.

- Q. What is the water supply shortfall in Karachi?

*Ghulam Ahmed,
Lyari, Karachi.*

- A. According to official figures, the water supply shortfall is about 150 MGD.

Shehri needs volunteers

to work in its following
subcommittees

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

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

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

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Address : _____

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SHEHRI MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your
membership for 2002! Join

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



URBAN HISTORY

A case for a Karachi Museum and Archives!

Prof. Kauser Bashir Ahmad outlines a plan for documenting Karachi's history and progress by building a world class museum and archives centre and calls the Karachiites to contribute to this cause.

We often lament that "ours is the city that nobody loves". But the city is to be known, understood and cherished before its love takes roots in its habitants. Proposal for setting up an exclusive museum and archives, dedicated to the (once) 'Paris of the East' and 'Bride of Cities', shall gradually inculcate the love, nostalgia and fulfillment of research activities related to its past, present and future, as well as attract Karachiites to its fold.

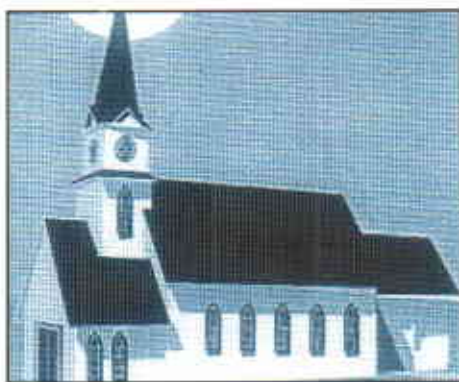
Objective

Karachi has already attained the status of a Mega-City i.e. a population of more than 13 million souls. Like all other mega cities and important urban centres, Karachi deserves to have a wholesome cultural precinct where multifarious social and cultural activities are pursued. In addition to the KCP (Karachi Cultural Precinct), we need to develop a separate museum and Archives related to its history and continued physical existence and progress of the city. The aim of this project is to organize a Karachi Museum & Archives (KMA) for the city and ultimately make it a part of the overall Karachi Cultural Precinct located on a suitable point in the city.

Proposal

The foremost requirement is a building premises, suitably located for an easy access to general public as well as for the intending scholars, where all materials related to Karachi could be housed.

The centre, Microfilming, Inf. Technology, etc. Necessary skeleton staff has to be deputed for KMA as it will be organized as a research unit on perpetual basis.



A place for housing Karachi's treasures

Set-up

KMA basically needs the following infrastructure and facilities for its initial setting up, that in future should grow as per need at the time.

- Premises easily accessible to general public and scholars.
- Professionals including coordinator, computer operator and support staff, etc.
- Equipment like computers, general furniture, special Museum setup and access to fax, Email, Web site, etc.

The KMA shall serve the following functions:

- A public awareness centre
- Research Centre for Scholars, Researchers, Journalists, Stu-

dents, etc.

- Special attraction for Visiting Tourists and Scholars.
- A publication Centre for Material & Literature on Karachi.
- Special Conferences, Seminars, Exhibitions and topical researches on Karachi.
- A support centre and archives for agencies working on future planning and development of the city.
- A coordination centre for various NGO's, CBO's, Govt. Agencies & Academic Institutions dealing with interactive studies on Karachi.

Collection

KMA Archives and Museum shall collect the following resources and data material on regular basis:

- Books on Karachi, Magazines & other literature.
- Historic and modern Maps.
- Photographs (Prints) and Transparencies; Collection and multimedia.
- Publications from Karachi based NGO's, CBO's, Public and Private Organizations, etc.
- Collection of relevant Clippings from News papers, Magazines, etc.
- Visual displays, exhibitions, 'son-et-luminaire' at selected sites.
- Objects of interest, historic and commemorative significance.

- Special restoration and conservation projects supported by KMA, on the KMA site and even elsewhere. (for example, old Karachi Tramways, water troughs (Sabils), Fountains, Monuments, Transport Vehicles, selected buildings, etc.)
- Organized and conducted City Tours (for example, Historic Karachi, Karachi Outskirts, Karachi and Beyond, Karachi Parks, Modern Karachi, Karachi Walks - as Churches in Sad-dar; old Town Walk, etc. etc.)

* Topical Exhibitions and other functions related to City.

Finance

Without going into greater details, conceptually the project is feasible financially. It needs to be initially supported as a collection and research unit by the host institution or organization at a sizeable premises. Based on one or two years of collection, it can attract support from 'Karachi Lovers' and philanthropists to create an Endowment Fund. Additionally the provincial Government and Local Authorities like KDA, KMC, KPT, DHA, Cantonment Boards, etc., should be 'Natural' supporters of such a project. Other Government Departments like Culture, Tourism, Archeology, etc. should also be supportive of this Project, KMA, in time can develop its own resource and fund generation through Tour operations, Publications, Exhibitions, etc.

Location

The initial setup (temporary)

may be started in any large office cum Hall at the host institution. The ultimate ideal location for such a project may be on any specific point from Jail Chowrangee to Nipa Chowrangee along the main University Road. This 'line' is in fact at the convergence of the metropolitan's two distinct parts and is easily accessible, be it from Defense, Clifton and PECHS or Gulshan, F. B. Area, Nazimabad and New Karachi, etc. There are already a sprinkling of some important institutions like Civic Centre, Nipa, EPB Exhibition Centre as well as some colleges along this corridor. There is a real possibility of moving out the Central Prison, thus allowing possible sites and premises for the proposed KMA. In any case the site vacated by the 'Sabzi Mandi' is now available.

- Adjacent to EPB Convention Centre (near Civic Centre)
- Next to Maritime Museum on Karsaz Road
- Hindu Gymkhana may be utilized for KMA
- Mohatta Palace may be converted into KMA

However, taking all pros & cons into account, the best possible and easily available site would be that of 'Sabzi Mandi' on the Main University Road not far from the KDA Civic Centre. Initially, the project may be housed on any temporary location so as to develop and collect needed archives, data, and exhibit materials.

Potential

Number of proposals and ideas may be generated to develop a KMA and finally a KCP (Karachi

Cultural Precinct) along this corridor that may even extend upto Karachi University, e.g.

- Sabzi Mandi site which is now available may be earmarked for KMA building premises and open area for object display, like old tramway, etc.
- Central Prison Buildings, (when vacated) may be earmarked for KMA. Big halls and buildings could be suitably altered, modified and renovated to suit the needs of the Karachi Museum and Archives.
- KMA could become a part of any existing institutions (if any one of them is to host KMA) like K.U., NED University, SSUET, Osman Inst. Urdu College, KDA, DAP-DCET, Sadequain Gallery, Hamdard University, EPB, PIA etc.
- Old Tramway may be 'recreated' to actually run along the University road, inside the linear park adjacent to KMA premises.

Epilogue

There is already an active move to establish a Lahore Museum by including the old Tollinton Market on its fold. The Megapolis of Karachi, in fact, needs a Karachi Museum and Archives in earnest. □

(Prof. Kauser Bashir Ahmed is Coordinator, Karachi Mega Cities Project and Former Dean, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, NED University, DCET, Karachi.)