Lankan troops kill 350 Tigers in a week

COLOMBO, Oct 7: Government troops killed more than 350 Tamil guerillas and lost 118 of their own men during a major offensive last week in northern Shri Lanka, the military said here today, reports AFP.

The military offensive, launched September 28 in the Jaffna peninsula, concluded on Monday following the army's capture of Kilali, a coastal stronghold of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

More than 350 LTTE guerillas, including 74 senior cadres and 118 security personnel, died in the offensive, according to a statement issued here by the Defence Coordinating Committee.

Another soldier was missing in action and presumed dead, officials said.

Hundreds of troops withdrew from Kilali and returned to the Elephant Pass Army Garrison, located at the mouth of the peninsula, from where the major operation was launched under cover of an indefinite curfew.

The withdrawal has run into criticism in newspapers here, but the defence committee, including the service chiefs, said the operation was a "limited one" aimed at restricting LTTE movements between the peninsula and mainland.

The LTTE operated a ferry from Kilali, via the Jaffna Lagoon, for thousands of civilians and to smuggle arms and ammunition between their bases in the rebel-controlled peninsula and the mainland.

During the advance to Kilali, at least seven LTTE camps, a huge boatyard, two boat-landing points and more than 120 fiberglass dinghies were destroyed, officials said.

The LTTE is fighting for a separate state in the northeast for Shri Lanka's minority Tamils, who are concentrated in the region. Thousands have been killed in the LTTE-led independence struggle.

Govt college teachers observe strike

By Staff Correspondent

The teachers of government colleges observed a country-wide token strike yesterday protesting terrorism in the educational institutions and assault on teachers including an attack on the principal of the Rajbari Government College last month.

A press release of the BCS General Education Association said the teachers held meetings in all government colleges yesterday and condemned violence on campuses.

PM: Farakka talks

From Page 1 Col 5

The Prime Minister also mentioned that the UNGA had included in its agenda in 1976 the situation arising out of unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water. She maintained that this was a recognition of the problem and said the UNGA had accepted a six-point statement on November 26, 1976 at the recommendation of the Special Political Committee.

In her arrival statement to the press, the Prime Minister described her visit to the United Nations as 'successful' since it could accomplish the objectives of reiterating Bangladesh's adherence to the world body and brightening the image of the nation.

She termed her attendance at the 48th session of the UNGA as significant and said the objective of the visit was to reiterate the country's deep commitment to the world body in its efforts to promote peace and justice and solve the global problems by turning the UN into a more effective body.

Another objective of the visit was to portray before the world the image of the nation, role and success of the democratic government and its active contribution to different fields.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh believed in the agenda of peace and her speech at the UNGA adequately reflected the stress on all aspects of human welfare.

Begum Zia said that for the active role in the UN for peace and development, Bangladesh was elected in 10 UN bodies during last two years and also vice-president of current session of the UNGA. She herself was elected co-chairman of the round-table on Preservation of Commitment for the Children which was addressed by heads of state and government of eight countries in addition to many foreign ministers.

Begum Zia said Bangladesh earned laurels for its role in the maintenance of global peace and the Secretary General of the UN personally requested her to despatch troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At present Bangladesh is involved in eight peace-keeping operations in different countries while the country wanted to further expand the role for peace and stability with other countries, she added.

Begum Zia said as the chairperson of the SAARC, it was her special task to explain at the UNGA the efforts for socio-economic uplift in fulfilling the mandate on poverty alleviation.

Rousing reception

From Page 1 Col 5

long-standing problem," she said.

In her debut at the forum of the world body since being elected two and a half years back, Begum Zia drew attention of the world community for her strong position on the vexing Farakka issue — "the life and death problem" of the people of Bangladesh.

During her stay in New York, the Prime Minister met world leaders and exchanged views on different issues confronting the present day world.

"We want our legitimate share of the Ganges water," Begum Zia told the cheering airport crowd.

She also called upon all political parties to make concerted efforts for re-constructing the country as a self-respecting nation.

Activists of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its front organisations, carrying colourful banners, placards and festoons, chanted slogans welcoming the Prime Minister.

"Welcome the Prime Minister," and "Bravo Khaleda, for raising the Farakka issue," they shouted.

Those trying to create chaos would eventually lose the confidence of the people, Begum Zia said. "Indiscipline would not cause any harm to the people's government."

"Rather, it would only harm hard-earned democracy and the ongoing development process," she added.

On arrival at the airport, her cabinet colleagues, chiefs of the three services and high civil and military officials received the Prime Minister at the gangway.

Deputy leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury and Law Minister Mirza Golam Haliz received Begum Zia near the stairs.

Alighting from the national flag carrier Biman, which flew her back home from London, the Prime Minister went inside the airport building to address a press conference.

The press conference over, Begum Zia went to a podium near the VVIP terminal to address the waiting crowd.

Earlier, people in long caravans of buses, trucks and minibuses began pouring into the VVIP tarmac premises since mid-morning.

The heavy traffic caused serious congestions on some of the main thoroughfares of the capital.

School children, carrying bouquets and flower petals, were seen lined up on both sides of the wide, spacious Airport Road to welcome the Prime Minister.

Because of the heavy traffic, Biman Bangladesh Airlines through advertisements requested its passengers of both domestic and international routes to report to the airport by 10 am Thursday to avail their flights in time.

Speaking at the mass reception, Begum Zia called for forging a national consensus to beat the issues affecting national progress and prosperity.

Sharing her experience on her talks with different world leaders, she said Bangladesh has been placed in a prestigious position in the international arena for restoring democracy and its pro-people programme.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder also spoke at the public reception.

From the airport Begum Zia, her cabinet colleagues and party leaders drove straight to the mazar of former president Shaheed Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar to place wreaths and offer fateha.

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Russian President Boris Yeltsin (R) wipes his face as he opens a Kremlin Security Council meeting with (L-R) Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaider and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Wednesday. — AFP photo

Yeltsin suspends proceedings of constitutional court

MOSCOW, Oct 7: President Boris Yeltsin suspended today the proceedings of Russia's constitutional court "until the adoption of a new constitution," reports AFP.

A decree issued here said the suspension had been decided because "the incomplete nature of the court" following the resignation of several judges meant that it was unable to carry out its task.

Reuter says: Russian Security Ministry officials today arrested Viktor Anpilov, one of the leaders of a hardline armed uprising against President Boris Yeltsin, a ministerial spokesman said.

He said Anpilov, head of the working Russia Communist Group, was held at a country house near the city of Tula, South of Moscow. Anpilov, who offered no resistance, was not armed but was wearing a flak jacket.

Resignation of RU VC, Pro-VC demanded

Shamprodayekata-Birodhi Chhatra Samaj yesterday demanded immediate resignation of Rajshahi University Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice Chancellor for their alleged collaboration with the Jamaat-Shibir, reports UNB.

The demand was made at a rally of the student alliance in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon. The rally was organised to press for ban on politics of Jamaat-Shibir.

The student leaders alleged that both the VC and Pro-VC had cooperated with the anti-liberation forces on the campus.

Meghna-Gumti bridge to be opened to traffic in Nov '94

The Meghna-Gumti Bridge at Daudkandi will be opened to traffic in November, next year, 15 months ahead the schedule, reports UNB.

The 1.4 kilometre bridge will be the longest road bridge in the country when it will be open to vehicular movement.

At the end of September 30 this year, more than 72 per cent of the physical works have been completed. It constitutes about 4 per cent higher than that of the revised work schedule and 16.5 per cent higher than that of the original schedule.

The bridge is being constructed at a cost of Tk 312.94 crore of which Tk 55.94 crore is being borne by Bangladesh government while Tk 257.00 crore is project aid.

Abu Dhabi puts 13 BCCI men on trial tomorrow

ABU DHABI, Oct 7: Abu Dhabi, home of the majority owners of the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International, will put 13 top BCCI executives on trial on Saturday in the largest court case to stem from the bank's collapse in 1991, reports Reuter.

The defendants include BCCI founder and Chairman Agha Hassan Abedi, a flamboyant Pakistani entrepreneur who persuaded the ruling Al-Nahayan family of Abu Dhabi to invest heavily in what was once one of the world's fastest growing banks.

The charges against the 13 former executives include dissipating funds, forging documents, concealing the bank's deficits and losses and approving false loans. Abu Dhabi's Justice Ministry announced the trial date in July.

Abedi, who founded BCCI as a 2.5 million operation in 1972 and expanded it into a 20 billion business empire spanning 60 countries, has fled to Pakistan.

He will be tried in his absence with former treasury head Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar, who was sentenced to six years jail in Britain last week for misusing more than 1.2 billion.

Ten of the other 11 of the defendants, among them former chief executive Mohammad Saleh Naqvi, have been held in Abu Dhabi since 1991, when the bank was forced to close amid allegations of massive fraud.

Nobel Prize

From Page 1 Col 3

Bluest Eye," and soon gained attention for her 'epic power, unerring ear for dialogue and richly expressive depictions of black America,' the academy said.

She followed with the novels, 'Sula,' 'Song of Solomon, 'Tar Baby,' 'Beloved' and 'Jazz.' A play, 'Dreaming Emmett,' was first produced in 1986, but has not been published.

The academy hailed Morrison as an author who "delves into the language itself, a language she wants to liberate from the fetters of race, and she addresses us with the luster of poetry."

She won the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, a year after publishing 'Beloved,' in which she widened her themes of the black world in life and legend, first described in the 1978 'Song of Solomon.'

Problem at BRTA

From Page 1 Col 3

Of the 22 ADs, ten are engineering graduates while most of the others — originally recruited as inspectors and now serving in their present posts on a temporary basis — are diploma engineers.

Ironically, the Communications Ministry decision, if implemented, would affect the careers of the graduate engineers while the diploma holders would still have a chance to secure their present posts through departmental examinations.

Sources in the Communications Ministry said the BRTA Chairman had already submitted a three-page recommendation to the Communications Secretary on September 27 requesting the latter to rescind the decision for fresh recruitment.

According to the text of the recommendation, the engineers had played a vital role in the sound motor vehicles management and revenue collection by the BRTA during the last 44 months.

The BRTA had collected revenue of Tk 47 crore against an originally estimate of Tk 42 crore in 1991-92 fiscal and Tk 52 crore against a target of Tk 47 crore in the 1992-93 fiscal.

BRTA Chairman M Badruzzaman believes the ADs who are about to lose their jobs following the ministry's decision had an important role in collecting the money and their absence would affect the realisation of a collection target of Tk 52 crore in the current fiscal.

"The fresh recruits would need to earn a certain degree of experience. The time needed for this training would affect the BRTA's efficiency regarding both vehicle management and revenue collection," the Chairman's recommendations said.

The Chairman also suggested that the cases of the ten engineers could be referred to a concerned committee under the Establishment Ministry.

The government had constituted a high-level committee, headed by an Additional Secretary of the Establishment Ministry, in January last to recommend ways for 'easily' regularising the jobs of the doctors, engineers and officers who had been appointed on an *ad hoc* basis under different ministries.

However, the Communications Ministry is yet to reconsider its decision in the light of the recommendations put forward by the BRTA chief. BRTA Chairman M Badruzzaman, when contacted declined to make any comment on the issue.

UN lifts economic sanctions on S Africa today

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 7: The UN General Assembly will lift economic sanctions against South Africa on Friday, but delay ending its oil embargo until blacks help start governing in a transitional council, a UN spokeswoman said Thursday, reports AP.

The 184-nation General Assembly recognises that the transition to democracy is under way and will vote on Friday to lift restrictions against South Africa on trade, investment, finance, travel and transportation, said Cynthia Henry, spokeswoman for assembly President Samuel R. Insanally.

The vote would come two weeks after African National Congress President Nelson Mandela urged the General Assembly to lift economic sanctions and encouraged international investment in South Africa. Mandela called for lifting the restrictions because of progress in creating a, non-racial, multiparty democracy in South Africa.

Two Shibir men roughed up in Dhaka, Habiganj

The Sampradayikata-Birodhi Chhatra Samaj (SBCS) activists yesterday assaulted a suspected worker of Islami Chhatra Shibir in front of the Jatiya Press Club, reports UNB.

The mobbed youth was identified as Mizanur Rahman, said to be a Shibir cadre from Chittagong.

The incident happened when Mizan was identified by a few students of Chittagong University present at an SBCS rally, witnesses said.

He was, however, saved later by the leaders of SBCS and set free from the hands of the agitated students.

Another report says, the All-Party Student Unity activists yesterday held a Shibir man, shaved his head and paraded the Habiganj town in a pageantry as part of the APSU move against campus terrorism.

Milam

From Page 1 Col 5

and often candid remarks.

The image of Bangladesh, Milam observed, is increasingly getting better because of its ability to sustain democracy and make rapid strides in the economic sphere.

Milam says he does not perceive the rise of fundamentalism in Bangladesh in the present democratic situation but feels that government should give serious attention to the growing population problem and create better opportunities for employment.

The long-time American envoy who had been a witness to this country's transition to democracy said that although democratic institutions are taking roots, political stability is not as firm as outside investors would like it to be. Campus violence, hartals and labour disruptions, he says, are elements that could and do hinder inflow of foreign investment. And despite the new industrial policy, procedures need to be simplified to make it a one-stop operation for venture capital.

Milam says that his government is a bit concerned about the human rights situation, which had seen a better record in the first year following transition to a democratic dispensation. He feels democracy in Bangladesh could benefit immensely without the use of the Special Powers Act.

William B. Milam's most memorable moment centres around the scene when young men danced merrily on the streets of Dhaka at the dawn of democracy, nearly three years back.

The Midnight File

Iraq to give UN list of N-arms suppliers

BAGHDAD, Oct 7: Iraq has promised to give the United Nations a complete list of its suppliers of nuclear and chemical weapons technology, the UN disarmament chief said here today. The head of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) to disarm Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, said he expected to receive the list later Thursday or Friday, when he is due to leave Iraq, reports AFP.

5 Russian troops killed in Georgia

MOSCOW, Oct 7: Five Russian soldiers were killed and another two reported missing when their convoy came under attack by separatist rebels in western Georgia, Itar-Tass reported today. Russian military officials in the Georgian capital Tbilisi, quoted by Itar-Tass, said the attack occurred on Tuesday as the convoy was travelling from Kutaissi to Batumi, reports AFP.

WB team due Oct 15

From Page 1 Col 4

restructuring, fleet restructuring, manpower rationalisation and financial restructuring. The bank suggested trimming down the fleet size and withdrawing the non-profitable river transport services under the fleet restructuring plan.

Out of the total project cost of 64.2 million US dollars, the International Development Agency (IDA) has committed 45 million dollars as credit, while the Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA) and Japan have agreed to provide 5 and 0.7 million dollars for the project respectively. The government's own contribution was fixed at 13.5 million dollars.

A top official at the BIWTC, when contacted last night, said the BIWTC authorities had already paid up all the outstanding loans taken from banks for paying the salaries and bonuses of its staff. The BIWTC had to pay an amount of Tk 23 crore annually to its staff as salaries in fiscal 1990-91, which increased to Tk 26 crore in '91-92 and Tk 31 crore in '92-93 because of the introduction of the new pay scale, he said, adding that despite this enhancement in the salary structure the corporation made a profit of Tk 6 crore in the '92-93 fiscal.

Therefore the BIWTC does not need to undergo any restructuring programme since it has already attained financial viability without implementing those action plans," the official argued.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, another official of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) said the Ministry of Shipping has reservations about the World Bank conditionalities and it has managed to take the matter to the cabinet. But once the government signs the agreement with the World Bank accepting all the conditionalities, it would be difficult to change any of the provisions, he felt.

3 killed

See Page 12 Col 5

Some of the victims admitted to the DMCH and the Pangu Hospital were identified as: Anwar Hossain, 28, Dulal, 18, Abdul Matin, 35, Abul Kashem, 25, Tozammel Hossain, 65, Sudhir Chandra Das, 30, Md Hanif, 30, Sirajul Islam, 28, Satya Ranjan Das, 28, Abdul Gani, 34, Farzana Akhter, 25, and Zaheda Akhtar, 8.

Witnesses said, a Dhaka-bound minibus from Tangail collided with a Jamalpur-bound bus from Dhaka near the Anjali Textile Mills when one of the minibuses tried to over-take a third one.

Police seized both the buses. A case has been lodged with the Joydevpur thana.

Driving licence

From Page 1 Col 4

ing driving licences.

Sources said, such a measure is being considered in order to control the road accidents that claim the lives of many people every year. Besides, the tests will help the driving licence holders to acquire basic knowledge about the traffic rules.

Presently candidates for driving licence have to face only an oral test in addition to the practical driving skill test. There are widespread allegations that many people reportedly manage to obtain driving licences without facing any tests whatsoever through a section of unscrupulous brokers or agents with the connivance of some corrupt officials of the concerned offices.

The BRTA officials here said a large number of fake driving licences were recently seized by them when those were submitted for renewal.

Traffic personnel also said many forged driving licence holders were detected at different times while checking of documents on the roads and highways.

Talks on Chakmas

From Page 1 Col 5

liberations," the home secretary told newsmen after the one-hour session.

He told a questioner that the meeting also covered other transborder problems including the "push-in" issue.

Bangladesh has about 2,000 kilometres border with India.

The Bangladesh delegation included Secretary of Special Affairs Division Nasarullah Khan, Additional Home Secretary Faizur Rahman, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Faruque Sobhan and Director at the Foreign Ministry Saiful Amin Khan.

Indian Home Secretary M N Vohra who flew in here yesterday morning led his country's 6-member team at the talks.

Other members of the team are: Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh K Raghunath, Indian Deputy High Commissioner Amitav Tripathi, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs B N Jha and Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs R K Bhatia.

Vohra is scheduled to call on Communications Minister Oli Ahmed who heads a parliamentary committee on the Chittagong Hill Tract affairs on Saturday.

He will meet with Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman before departure for home the same day.

All but Murtaza

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unity does not go much beyond politics.

Ms. Bhutto and her mother, Nusrat Bhutto, co-chair the People's Party, but have become so divided on how the party should be run that they were barely on speaking terms during the campaign.

Nusrat Bhutto campaigned heavily for her son Murtaza, much to her daughter's chagrin.

When Ms. Bhutto returned home for the election Tuesday, she pointedly avoided the modern family mansion in the southern town of Larkana, where her mother was staying.

Instead, Ms Bhutto stayed with her stepmother, Shireen, at an older family compound in Naudero, 12 miles away.

Ms. Bhutto received a congratulatory telephone call from her mother when the election results came in, but otherwise they had no contact over the past two days, according to sources close to the family.

Murtaza Bhutto fled Pakistan after the 1981 hijacking to Kabul, Afghanistan, of a Pakistan Airlines Boeing jet. A member of a dissident group trying to overthrow dictator Gen. Mohammed Zia ul-Haq, Murtaza Bhutto faces trial in Pakistan in connection with the hijacking.

Nusrat Bhutto's campaign pleas for her son Murtaza often bordered on the absurd.

She denounced candidates from her own party who were challenging him and publicly threatened suicide if he lost.

"I wanted to vote for both Murtaza and Benazir, but I checked with my legal adviser and they told me I had only one vote," Nusrat Bhutto told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Zia died in a plane crash in 1988. His son, Ijaz ul- Haq, won a parliamentary seat Thursday for the conservative Pakistan Muslim League.

Pak polls leave a hung parliament

From Page 1 Col 8

what alliances the two biggest parties forge with smaller groups and independents, diplomats said.

Nawaz Sharif, 44, president of PML won all the three seats — two in Lahore and one in NWFP. His party became the single largest party in his home province, Punjab, where the PPP with 45 seats trailed behind PML's 52 seats.

Sharif issued a brief victory statement before he went to bed in the pre-dawn hours of Thursday.

"I attribute my victory to Allah," it read. "We'll make Pakistan the beacon of hope in the world of Islam."

But when the sun rose Thursday, his party was trailing for good.

Pakistan Jamaat-e-Islami which fought the elections under the leadership of Qazi Hossain Ahmed in 103 National Assembly seats was wiped out. The Jamaat which used to extend support to the Muslim League contested the elections changing the name Islami Jamhoori Mahaz (IJM) comprising three Islamic parties and defected the right wing alliance.

Out of 217 seats in the National Assembly, elections were held in 211 seats including ten minority seats, but result of one seat was withheld under a court order pending decision in a bank case against Speaker Gohar Ayub who has reportedly won the elections. The Election Commission has announced results of 200 Muslim seats while results of minority seats were yet to be announced as their constituencies were scattered all over the country. Voting in 5 constituencies has been postponed because of deaths.

The MQM's boycott in the Sindh province proved to have brought unexpected results for both the PPP and the PML. Both of the parties shared equally in 14 seats.

PML (Junejo), an ally of PPP, got six seats to become a third majority party and independents — 15 including 10 tribal leaders known as FATA (Federal Administered Tribal Area.)

Major leaders who have won their seats include Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Shahbaz Sharif, brother of Nawaz Sharif, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and Sarder Akbar Bugti.

The National Assembly will meet on October 15 while formation of the new government will take place on October 19.

Bhutto, 40, charged nationwide fraud had taken from her the more than 1'10-seat majority she had been predicting.

"Nationwide the electoral lists were tampered with," she said. "Thousands of my voters were turned away and, as I speak, across the country it's the same report I get."

But observers from the European Community issued a statement today saying they believed Pakistanis had been able to vote "without hindrance or intimidation" in Wednesday's elections.

The 30-member observer team was the first of three foreign observer teams here to comment on the polls.

The election was held amid unprecedented security with nearly half the armed forces deployed at polling stations and on streets to prevent rigging Officials said turnout by the 53-million-strong electorate was about 40 per cent.

Diplomats said many people had become bored by the constant power struggles that have given Pakistan eight prime ministers in as many years.

Bhutto said she hoped for a resounding win in the provincial parliaments. Opposition governments in the four provinces have in the past paralysed the federal government in Islamabad.

As Chief Minister of the largest province of Punjab during Bhutto's 1988-90 government, Sharif prevented her from implementing a single item of legislation.

PML organiser Sartaj Aziz said in an interview the identity of the future government would depend on the alliances with smaller parties and the results of the provincial elections.

Sharif was forced to resign in July, allowing fresh elections, after a six-month power struggle against an alliance formed by Bhutto and her erstwhile enemy, then-President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Sharif, sacked by Ishaq Khan on charges of misrule in April and restored 40 days later by the Supreme Court, resigned together with the President on July 19 in a compromise paving the way for fresh elections.

Acting President Wasim Sajjad promulgated an ordinance banning members of parliament from switching sides. A flurry of floor-crossing this year undermined Sharif's government and contributed directly to his fall.

Bhutto was sacked by Ishaq Khan in August 1990 on charges of corruption and misrule after just 20 months in office.

MQM calls off boycott of provincial polls

KARACHI, Oct 7: A party representing an ethnic minority in Pakistan today called off its boycott of provincial elections this weekend, a spokesman for the Mohajir National Movement (MQM) said, reports Reuter.

"We have ended the boycott after government assurances for the safety of candidates and workers in Saturday's elections," spokesman M A Jalil said in an interview.

The party representing Urdu-speaking Muslim immigrants from India boycotted Wednesday's elections for the National Assembly on the grounds that it was being terrorised by a rival splinter group.

The MQM's boycott on Wednesday helped former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) win six seats in the southern cities of Karachi and Hyderabad.

"We will take part in Saturday's elections for provincial parliaments in all the four provinces," Jalil said.

The MQM won 15 National Assembly seats and 27 in the 109-member Sindh Provincial Assembly in the last provincial elections in 1990.