

Romance with the River Dance with the Delta...!

Sindh Peoples
CARAVAN

01-14
March

2017

“Protect Our Rivers & Delta”



Narrative Report
Roshan Bhatti

THIS 14-DAY CAMPAIGN STRIVES TO UPHOLD THE
SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS OF THE
FISHING COMMUNITY OF PAKISTAN

Background:

If there is ever to be a Third World War, many believe it will be fought over water, with South Asia serving as the flashpoint. The region houses a quarter of the world's population and has less than 5 percent of the global annual renewable water resources. Low water availability per person and high frequency of extreme weather events, including severe droughts, further increase the vulnerability of the area. Any disturbance by the country upstream is likely to impact life downstream. Also, as heightened interests to tame and exploit a river through dams, canals and hydel projects suggest, this region will be a zone of constant confrontations in the future.

The vision 2025 of Pakistan clearly indicates that the existing flow of water of rivers will be diverted through building various mega schemes for water conservation for energy and agricultural purposes. Such decisions and policies based on vested political interests will further aggravate the socio-economic conditions of deltaic communities of the Sindh.

A large water share of the River Indus is utilized by Punjab Province. Resultantly, the lower end of the River Indus that used to be known as "Mighty River Indus" has been reduced to the level of canal shows only tiny inconsistent storage of water. Such a massive destruction of the River Indus has led to the death of livelihood of the deltaic people.

The Pakistan government has been planning to build more dams on Indus River. The PFF believes that the indigenous people along with the other natural habitat have the basic right to use the land and water first. Therefore the water must not be deemed as a private property such privatized of water must not be done at the expense of the poor deltaic communities.

The PFF believes that by the building dams and barrages, the government has diverted the natural flow of the River Indus, destroyed the rivers' ecology, and displaced the helpless people whose livelihood depends on the rivers and delta. The bio-diversity of the Indus Delta has been destroyed in the name of national interest and sustainable development.

Introduction:

For nearly two decades now, the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum has been striving for the socio-economic, political and cultural rights of the indigenous fishing and peasant communities of Pakistan. At international level, the PFF carries out the rights-based work through the platform of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) as the PFF currently hold its chair.

In continuation with the PFF's yearly campaign for the restoration for River Indus and Indus Delta, the PFF organized **Sindh Peoples Caravan**. The Sindh Peoples Caravan was divided into



two major phases as mentioned hereunder;

MOBILIZATION AND AWARENESS RAISING PHASE: The Mobilization and awareness raising phase started from February 10, 2017 and continued till March 6, 2017. This month long phase included sensitization and political education with regards to the need of a socially organized movement for a strong resistance against the violation of basic right to water. Around 20000 people from fishing and peasant villages, academia, religious leaders, government officers, media and others were sensitized throughout Sindh province. The associate members of Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, activist and leaders actively participated in the mobilization phase of

Sindh Peoples Caravan. During the phase people were invited to actively participate during the next major phase of Sindh Peoples Caravan.

SINDH PEOPLES CARAVAN-THE CAMPAIGN PHASE: The second phase included a series of political actions across the province Sindh. This phase started with a week-long campaign from March 7, 2017 and culminated on March 14, 2017 in the form of a massive people's assembly that will be participated by around 5000 people from fishing and peasant communities, civil society members, academia, government officials, media and other stakeholders. The 2017 Sindh Peoples Caravan was carried out under the theme; ***PROTECTION OF OUR RIVERS & DELTA.***

Specific Objectives of Sindh Peoples Caravan included:

- To raise awareness among the communities about their water rights and responsibility
- To strongly demand from IRSA for reserving at least 35 MAF water downstream of Kotri for regeneration of Indus Delta
- To explore the factors damaging health of water bodies and rivers and therefore diminish life and livelihood of indigenous people
- To extend strong voice for improved water governance and environment flows of rivers
- To sensitize people for no more dams, no more diversions and no more cuts on Indus River in future

Caravan in Action:

Participants: 100 participants including nearly 50% females participated in the caravan. The participants from fishing and peasant communities belonged to various districts of Sindh. The participants included young and the old alike.

Launching Ceremony & Tribute to River Indus: The Launching ceremony of Sindh Peoples Caravan was held at Dhoolha Darya Khan in district Thatta. A number of stakeholders from media, academia, NGOs, civil society members and the participated in the Caravan. Coupled with the program a flower tossing ceremony was also held at the Banks of River Indus to pay homage to the river.

Leading the caravan, PFF chairperson Muhammad Ali Shah highlighted the issue of Indus Delta and River Indus. The unique initiative in the shape of the Caravan was launched to mobilize people at the time when the country, especially Sindh, is experiencing political, social and economic crisis. The ceremony aimed at highlighting livelihood issues of fisherfolk and peasants who were considered extremely vulnerable to the grave issue of sea intrusion and other climatic changes. The ceremony reiterated the demand for stopping proposed mega water projects of the River Indus like dams and diversions. Previous projects should be modified to restore natural flow of the river and it should be ensured that water reached its ultimate destination, the Indus delta, he said, adding that tail-end area people had also right over that water.



The participants and speakers of the launching ceremony believed that fishing and peasant communities have the courage to lead a social movement in the shape of various public actions to protect natural resources like forests, rivers, canals, sea and wetlands and pressurize the government for the fresh water flow of 35 MAF downstream Kotri in the River Indus & Indus Delta.

Groups of Caravan Participants:

At the end of the launching ceremony of Sindh Peoples Caravan, the participants were organized into groups with equal participation of males and females. The groups were oriented about the proceedings of the Caravan by Muhammed Ali Shah who led the action from the front. Team leaders from among the groups were also selected so that discipline throughout



the movement could well be ensured.

Sujawal Town: Welcoming the Caravan with the rally: The 100 people Sindh Awami Caravan was warmly received by hundreds of local residents with flowers and garlands of roses at the entrance of Sujawal, the district headquarter. The hosts then accompanied the Caravan to the Press Club Sujawal in rally. Media briefings and speeches were held at the Press Club. Afterwards, the Caravan left for next planned destination.

Sujawal, Choochar Jamali: The locals from the Choochar Jamali, one of small markets of district Sujawal awaited Sindh peoples Caravan so that they can give them a candid reception. The locals including community people, students, teachers and other members of civil society rallied along with participants of the Caravan in the market. The procession then gathered at crossroad for speeches. Leaders of the PFF body district Sujawal and others accompanying the Caravan spoke on the occasion. Muhammed Ali Shah, who led the Caravan thanked them for warm welcome and reminded them of the struggle that they were carrying out for the protection of River Indus & Indus Delta.

Village Haji Ali Muhammad Theamore: Haji Ali Bux Theamore from the Village Ali Muhammad Theamore received Sindh Peoples Caravan while it was on its way to Jati Town early in the evening. Haji Ali met with Muhammad Ali Shah and rest of the activists of the Caravan.

Night Stay: The Caravan stayed in Jati after a full day of rallies and speeches highlighting the struggle for the protection of rivers and delta.



Meetings, Orientation and Discussions: On March 8, 2017 the social activists of Sindh Peoples Caravan gathered in Jati office in the morning. Chairman Muhammed Ali Shah conducted the orientation session. Feedback and discussions for the previous day and on the next destinations and activities were held in participatory way.

Public Reception, Rally and Speeches in Jati: Soon after the morning meetings of the Caravan participants were over, the participants got ready for a march in Jati central market. The participants boarded off the buses at a distance of around one Kilometer from the Jati central market and walked in processions towards the market where hundreds of community members awaited their arrival with flowers and gifts of Ajrak in their hands.

In the midst of the flower, resounding slogans, and songs of freedom for rivers and delta, the Caravan was received by the poor masses that danced and cheered at the slogans of the struggle.

The local activists, PFF district organizational leaders spoke of the issues that the coastal belt of Sindh faces. Noor Muhammed Theamore raised voice against the multinational companies that destroying the deltaic area of the coastal districts.

Chairman Muhammad Ali Shah bluntly spoke against the dams and their destructive impact on river Indus. The procession of the Caravan started marching ahead in Jati after the speeches for water rights. Electrified at the voice of slogans and songs for the rivers and rights, the Caravan veterans kept moving to the entrance of Jati town where they planned to leave district Sujawal for the next destination. Amidst the flowers, hugs and handshakes the Caravan activists got on the buses and moved ahead.



Golarchi, district Badin: The Sindh Peoples Caravan arrived at Golarchi, one of the small towns and markets of district Badin. Hundreds of women, men and children held banners, flowers and garlands as a token of appreciation for the social activists who pledged to raise voice for indigenous rights. Chairman Muhammad Ali Shah along with the rest of participants received heartfelt reception from locals of Golarchi. Hand in hand with the caravan with the army of activists, the locals moved in a march in the middle of Golarchi market. With slogans for the Indus and the Delta, they felt high for their aim was the one that matched the mental wavelengths activists who joined them.

After a moving march in the market and the press briefings the next spot for the army of activists was the district headquarters of Badin city.

Arrival at Badin: Badin has been one of major districts of the struggle of the PFF. The district has a history of a struggle of rights against the commercial and State forces. A large number of



women, men and children received Sindh Peoples Caravan as it entered the city's premises. Abida Jamali and the rest of PFF's organizational activists facilitated the rally within the center of the city.

Press Briefings: Having gotten a pleasant reception from the locals of Badin, the Caravan reached at the Badin Press Club where the journalists from various local and mainstream media channels and newspapers welcomed the leaders and workers of the struggle. The media was briefed as regards the aims and objectives of the Caravan through public speeches and interviews.

Rally from Press Club Badin to Pir Aalam Shah Stadium: The Caravan

veterans marched through the streets of Badin city for a long rally for Indus River and Indus Delta. Hundreds of locals from Badin joined in. Dancing, singing and marching the jubilant social change makers also motivated minors to take part in the rally.

Gifts of Sindh Awami Caravan Mufflers: The Sindh Peoples Caravan participants were presented with the gift of Sindh Awami Caravan Muffler which symbolized the struggle for freedom and the rights of the indigenous fishing and peasant communities.

Night Stay in Badin: The accommodation for the caravan participants was arranged by the PFF



associate members and organizational activist in Badin.

Peeru Lashari, Badin: At the very outset of day three of the caravan after the initial morning meeting that discussed the proceedings of the previous day, a peoples march was carried in Peeru Lashari one of villages at a distance from the district headquarters. The people held garlands of roses and Ajrak in their hands to greet the untiring army of the social activists who continuously kept on traveling across the province for propagating the message of protection of Indus River and Indus River Delta. They hosts of the village smiled, danced and sang along with tunes of Sindh Peoples Caravan coupled with local Sindhi singers. As soon as the rally on foot ended, the Chairman and other senior activist of the campaign delivered speeches that spread that word of the struggle for water rights.

Peoples Rally & Press Briefings at Talhar, Badin: After Peeru Lashari, the next public action for the restoration of water rights took place in Talhar, another small town within the jurisdiction



of district Badin. As usual, the 100 people ragged army was greeted and welcomed by the underprivileged people whose eyes glistened with rays of hope for the protection of their own inland water bodies.

A number of peasants and laborers joined in the walk for water rights. The message of the Indus was clear and loud as they smiled and cheered. Meanwhile interviews with the caravan activists were also conducted by various news channels.

Sindh Peoples Caravan in Matli, Badin: Crossing small towns and villages, the jubilant caravan arrived at Matli town in Badin. Associate members, community people, students, teachers and senior civil society members welcomed and congratulated the social change makers for their successful campaign. After receiving the activists, the hosts from Matli guided them for staging a march through the main market of Matli. The rally completed a march of more than one Kilometer in Matli. The speeches of the Caravan participants resounded in the streets of small town Matli. The untiring activists of the Peoples Caravan also spoke to the media persons. At the end of the march, the Caravan activists bid farewell to the people who welcomed them in Matli, Badin and then set off for their journey ahead.

Peoples Caravan reception by the people of district Mirpurkhas: En route to district Umer Kot, the Peoples Caravan was greeted by the locals from district Mirpurkhas. Chairman Muhammad Ali Shah with some other activists boarded off the bus to meet with the people out there. The



activists briefly shared with aims and objectives of the Caravan with the hosts and then left for district Umer Kot.

Umer Kot, reception, rally and media briefings: Umer Kot welcomed the human rights social activists of Sindh Peoples Caravan with flowers and friendly greetings. Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Khoso, the head of the Sami Foundation in Umer Kot greeted the Caravan and participated in rallies and speeches in the city. After a rally within the city, meetings and interviews with media persons were held. Information relating to the Caravan was shared with them.

Night Stay & Soofi Music in Umer Kot: The accommodation and dinner for the participants was arranged by the PFF organizational activists of district Umer Kot in village Allah Bachayo Mallah, Farsh Mori. The traditional Soofi Rag was also arranged for the Peoples Caravan in the village. Villagers along with the activists of the Caravan enjoyed the Soofi Raag that highlighted folk culture of Sindh.

Rally in Village Allah Bachayo Mallah: Initial meeting with the Caravan participants was held in the morning on day four of the Caravan. Afterwards, a people's march was carried on the dusty rural tracks of village Allah Bachayo Mallah so that the villagers could have an idea of River Indus and the Delta. The rally in the village was attended by the villagers well.



Caravan Welcome in Village Ghulam Nabi Shah: Mr. Ali Sher Shah, a notable from the village Ghulam Nabi Shah received the cordially received the Peoples Caravan. Mr. Ali Sher arranged a gathering for Caravan. The chairman Muhammad Ali Shah spoke to the village gathering in a

speech educating them of the plight of the Indus River and Indus Delta. The villager bade farewell to the Peoples Caravan from district Umer Kot.

Dhalyar: Reception from district Sanghar: After finishing off with a successful campaign in district Umer Kot, the Sindh Peoples Caravan reached at Dhalyar one of the small villages of district Sanghar. The Caravan activists got a pleasant reception from the villagers and left for



the next destination of the district.

Reception in Khipro, Sanghar: Queued on both sides of the road hundreds of peasant women and other rural workers awaited the arrival of procession of Sindh Peoples Caravan. Flowers, smiles and hugs were showered upon the men and women who boarded off the Caravan buses. The songs of freedom of rivers and delta struck a chord with the mental wavelengths of these hospitable people. Meeting with the charged activists, they rallied along with the veterans chanting the slogans of freedom of the fresh water. They villagers along with Caravan participants campaigned against the construction of Bhasha Dam, Kalabagh Dam, Khirthar Canal and other diversion plans, which they leaders believe will disrupt the natural flow of the River Indus and may cause further displacement of communities living in tail-end areas.

Peoples Caravan in Sanghar City: After warmly receiving the caravan, a large number of peasant's fishermen and women took out a rally in Sanghar demanding of the government to



rehabilitate the fresh water flow of 35 MAF in River Indus. The rally covered a distance of more than 5 kilometers raised voice against the State's. Marching along with 100 people caravan were journalists, civil society members, local folk singers and others. Crossing major streets and cross-roads of Sanghar city, the rally reached at the Sanghar press club where the activists from among the caravan participants spoke to the locals. The organizational, associate members and the Chairman, PFF spoke at the press club and reiterated the demands of Sindh Peoples Caravan 2017.

Night Stay in Sanghar: After a hectic and heated day, the Peoples Caravan stayed in Sanghar city where accommodation and dinner was arranged at PFF Sanghar Office.

Early in the morning the Caravan gathered as usual and started leaving the office for the planned public actions ahead. The locals from Sanghar district sprinkled flowers at the activists and applauded the week-long struggle that they carried out. Soon afterwards, the activists left



for the next venue.

Rally in Jhol, Sanghar: The Peoples Caravan participants got off their buses in Jhol town where a rally within the Jhol's main streets was planned. Carrying banners demanding the restoration of Indus Delta and Indus River, when the participants began walking across the road, the local peoples including males, females and children greeted with them with open arms and endorsed their struggle for water rights. The songs and the slogans seemed to be rays of hope for the local populace so they took part in the demonstrations with heart and soul. A warm welcome was also given to the Peoples Caravan by Sindh Adabi Sanghat in Jhol.

Reception and rally in Tando Adam, Sanghar: Carrying banner of welcome for Sindh Peoples Caravan, the local residents of Tando Adam in district Sanghar met with the participants of the Caravan. Civil Society members sprinkled flowers and presented Ajrak to the resilient and



untiring leaders and activists who made the peoples caravan happen in a triumphant manner. The Caravan conveyed the message for the restoration and protections of River Indus to the participants through speeches. Media channels were briefed through interviews.

Welcome, reception and rally in Shahdadpur: Mr. Suleman Abro and Mola Bux Umrani along with the people from fishing and peasant villages greeted the Caravan in Shahdadpur town and facilitated the peoples rally across the town. At the end of the rally in Shahdadpur, a press conference was held in press club Shahdadpur participated by Chairman Muhammad Ali Shah, Suleman Abro and the rest of the caravan participants and PFF associate members and organizational activists.

Welcome, reception and rally in Benazirabad: After launching a successful campaign, Sindh Peoples Caravan arrived in district Benazirabad. Where the city civil society and community people cordially received all the participants of the Peoples Caravan. A peoples march in the city's major commercial areas was carried out propagating the demands for just and sustainable rights' achievement. The rally culminated at press club of the city. The speeches made there in the city depicted the power of the common people for carrying out revolutionary

resistance against the State's intentions of destroying the Delta and the Indus River. The media were also apprised of the major threats facing the deltaic communities. After a hectic public march, song and dance for freedom of rivers, the participants of the Caravan were served with lunch.



Sindh Peoples Caravan celebrating Holi in Sakrand: The evening in Sakrand was painted with the colors of Holi, a pleasant Hindu festival. All of the participants of the Peoples Caravan along with the hosts expressed solidarity with the Hindus by celebrating Holi as a symbol of religious plurality. The celebration of Holi in the evening added more colors to the campaign of Sindh Peoples Caravan as all the activists felt refreshed and energized through the expression of love and respect.

Night Stay in Sakrand: The accommodation and dinner was arranged in Sakrand for the Peoples Caravan.

Visit to the Shrine of Hazrat Muhammad Shah Jilani Zaakri: One of the initial activities of the Peoples caravan on day six was paying a visit to the shrine of Hazrat Muhammad Shah Jilani



Zaakri. The visit proved to be soulful for all the participants. Payers were said for the restoration and protection of River Indus and Delta at the shrine of the saint.

Awareness raising Campaign in Sakrand: A people's march was organized in Sakrand town for awareness raising with regards to the current threats that the River Indus and the Delta face. The rally with the Sakrand town attracted a good numbers of community people who came and met with the leaders and activists of the Caravan.

Welcome, reception & rally in Qazi Ahmed: UC Chairman Qazi Ahmed, Ishaque Mirani received the procession of the Peoples Caravan in Qazi Ahmed and facilitated a peoples march across the streets of Qazi Ahmed. The rally was also attended by various media persons.

Peoples Chain at Amri Bridge: The Peoples Caravan made a long human chain at Amri Bridge where the River Indus flows downstream. The River was paid homage with flowers and prayers were said for its protection and restoration.

Welcome, reception and rally in Sehwan City, Jamshoro:

PFF Manchar unit cordially welcomed the Peoples Caravan in Sehwan city a rally in within the city. Number of rural women from nearby villages gifted Ajrak to the guests of the Caravan and welcomed the congregation with rose petals. The women and men who welcomed the activists also accompanied them throughout the rally in Sehwan town. Amidst slogans, dance and songs for the freedom of rivers and delta, the Peoples Caravan proceeded to the shrine of Lal Qalander Shahbaz of Sehwan Sharif. The participants of the rally paid visit to the shrine of Lal Qalander and said prayers at the shrine for the fulfillment of their aims and objectives. After paying a visit to the shrine, the caravan left for the next destination.

Night Stay: The accommodation and dinner was arranged in Sehwan Sharif by PFF organizational activists and leaders from the Manchar Unit.

Welcome, reception and rally in Lucky Shah Saddar, Jamshoro:

From Sehwan Sharif, the Caravan reached at one of the villages en route. The villagers of Luck Shah Saddar Villages greeted the Peoples Caravan with the shower of rose petals upon them as



a token of love and appreciation for the Caravan's persistent struggle and patience throughout the campaign. A large rally was organized by the villagers along with the Caravan in the village. Speeches made their spread the message of the importance of water rights and the need of the hour that needed a resistance against the capitalistic forces that plan to destroy the life and livelihoods of poor masses.



Peoples Caravan greeted at Amri, Jamshoro:

Amri, the villages that flowed after Lucky Shah Sadder gave a heartiest reception with banners showing the message of love and hospitability. Showering flowers and gifting the traditional Sindhi gifts to the social change makers, the locals from the Amri village rallied along with the procession of the activist in the villages.

Welcome, reception and rally in Sun, Jamshoro: This village of Sun is better known for some major social movement in Sindh. The people there in Sun gave a warm welcome to the Peoples Caravan of PFF and rallied along with the resilient activists throughout the village. Chairman Muhammed Ali Shah, Mustafa Mirani and other spoke with the villagers and oriented them about the major aims and objectives of the weeklong persistent rights campaign.

Reception at Bhutto Village, Jamshoro: After launching a successful campaign in previous villages, Sindh Peoples Caravan arrived in Bhutto Village. Where the villagers cordially received all the participants of the Peoples Caravan. The speeches made there in the village depicted the power of the common people for carrying out revolutionary resistance against the State's intentions of destroying the Delta and the Indus River. Awareness raising participatory



discussions were held during the gathering in the village.

Peoples Caravan's welcome at Manjhand Village, Jamshoro: Villagers, workers, and associate members of Manjhand village of district Jamshoro showed love and solidarity to the Peoples Caravan by pleasantly greeting them and rallying along with them in the village.

Welcome, reception and rally in Jamshoro district headquarters: In the middle of twilight and the sunset, the Sindh Peoples Caravan arrived at Jamshoro where the procession was warmly received and met by the senior members of the civil society including Nasir Panwer and others. A larger number of people joined the caravan activists at Jamshoro Phatak to express love and respect for the struggle that they carried out throughout the various district of Sindh.

Night Stay: The Peoples Caravan participants' accommodation and dinner was arranged at IRM office, Jamshoro.

Homage to the Indus: March 14, 2017, the International Day of Action for Rivers was the final day for Sindh Peoples Caravan. The veteran leaders, workers and activists of the Caravan started the day by paying a rich tribute to the River Indus at Almanzer, Jamshoro in the very



early hours of dawn. A mammoth human chain was formed at the bank of River Indus coupled with the flower tossing ceremony and prayers for the protection of River Indus and the Delta.

Meetings at IRM Jamshoro: Once the participants of the caravan got ready, a participatory session led by chairman Muhammad Ali Shah was held at the IRM Jamshoro. Along with the review of the week-long campaign in the province, strategy for organizing the grand rally on the day was discussed. The Chairman presented Ajrak to all the participants of the Caravan as a token of appreciation for their patience and persistent campaigning. At the end of the session a group picture was taken.

Grand Rally: Shahbaz Building- Press Club Hyderabad: Around 5000 activists of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum along with the Peoples Caravan staged a rally on the final day of Sindh Peoples



Caravan to conclude the week-long march to Hyderabad aimed at marking the International Rivers Day. The massive peoples rally marched to the press club

in the middle of slogans, songs and dance demanding water for the delta of Indus River that required 35 MAF water to be released to save the delta.

Holding the State responsible for the shortage of water in Sindh, the participants of the rally slammed a recent announcement made by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to build a protective wall against sea intrusion. Chairman Muhammad Ali Shah leading the rally said that even the PM was unaware that no strong wall could help stop sea intrusion. Only the required water in the delta would help reduce its effects, he added.

“Rivers make delta with natural flow, bringing silt-cum-freshness, and provide livelihood for the communities living along the delta. But now the Indus delta is dying and causing wide displacement and migration of communities to other places for better sources of livelihood,” he said. He pleaded for revisiting all water accords, including the Indus Waters Treaty and 1991 Water Accord. He dubbed water theft and mismanagement of water as ‘terrorism’. “Water is life and the act of snatching water is equal to snatching life from millions of people,” he said.

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS:





















MEDIA COVERAGE

DAWN

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

SOUTHERN REGION 19

Week-long march of PFF concludes with rally

By Our Staff
Correspondent

HYDERABAD: A large number of activists of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) staged a rally on Tuesday to conclude its week-long march to Hyderabad aimed at marking the International Rivers Day.

The PFF organised a Sindh Awami Caravan launched from Doolah Darya Khan bridge of Indus River at Thatta-Sujawal on March 7, which culminated outside the local press club.

It visited Sujawal, Badin, Umerkot, Sanghar Nawabshah, Sakrand, Sehwan, Jamshoro and other small towns.

The organisation held various activities during the march.

Speaking to participants of the rally, PFF chairman Mohammad Ali Shah demanded water for the delta of Indus River that required 35 MAF (million acre feet) water to be released to save the delta. It would also stop sea intrusion.

Holding the 'Punjab establishment' responsible for the shortage of water in Sindh, he slammed a recent announcement made by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to build a protective wall against sea intrusion. He said that even the PM was unaware that no strong wall could help stop sea intrusion. Only the required water in the delta would help reduce its effects, he added.

"Rivers make delta with natural flow, bringing silt-cum-freshness, and provide livelihood for the communi-



PFF's week-long march marking International Rivers Day ends with a rally in Hyderabad on Tuesday.—Dawn

ties living along the delta. But now the Indus delta is dying and causing wide displacement and migration of communities to other places for better sources of livelihood," he said.

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all water accords, including the Indus Waters Treaty and 1991 Water Accord.

He dubbed water theft and mismanagement of water as 'terrorism'.

"Water is life and the act of snatching water is equal

to snatching life from millions of people," he said.

Dr Ismail Kumbhar of the Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, Nasir Panhwar, Punhal Sario and others said they would not allow construction of Kalabagh

dam or any other dam over the Indus. They described dams as 'death for the delta'.

They demanded of the government to save lives and livelihood of indigenous people by restoring natural flow of the river and asked for protecting water from industrial pollution.

Civil society activists who were present on the occasion included Zulfiqar Halepoto, Jawaid Soz, Kashif Bajeeer and others.

Earlier, PFF vice chairman Mustafa Mirani, Fatima Majeed and hundreds of activists formed a human chain at the dried bed of the Indus near Jamshoro to call for restoration of its flow and revival of the delta.

They also performed a ritual to pray for the river while showering rose petals to pay tribute to the waters.

Sea intrusion termed imminent threat to four coastal districts

By Our Correspondent

THATTA: Several hundred people including scholars, literary figures and activists of various political, nationalist, religious, social, peasant and labour organisations, attended an event organised by the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) at the twin bridge — known as Doolah Darya Khan Bridge — between Thatta and Sujawal on Tuesday.

PFF Chairman Mohammed Ali Shah, Dr Mukhtiar Mahar, columnist Nisar Khokhar, Mustafa Mirani, Fatima Majeed, Mir Baloch, Mehboob Brohi and scores of other activists threw flowers and petals — signifying their urge to see release of adequate water downstream Kotri to save the Indus delta — at a selected point beneath the bridge.

The event was part of the PFF campaign for the protection of the delta, streamlining of the Indus River network and to check further environmental degradation.

Speaking to the participants, Mr Shah announced start of a march from this point to Hyderabad, where the PFF has convened a big gathering on

March 14 to mark the International Day of Rivers. He said that the marchers would pass through various districts of lower Sindh before reaching their destination.

Mr Shah observed that they had to throw flowers and petals on the dried up riverbed instead of the flowing Indus. A minimum 35 million acre feet (maf) water was not being released downstream Kotri which was essentially needed to save the delta, he added, and urged the authorities concerned to pay due attention to the issue.

The audience prayed for availability of adequate water to ensure prompt and regular release of water.

The PFF chairman noted that sea intrusion had already devastated the coastal region and eaten up hundreds of thousands of acres of fertile land along the coastline. According to a study, Thatta, Sujawal, Badin and parts of Malir (Karachi) district were vulnerable to sea intrusion and might vanish by 2050, he said, and termed the situation 'alarming'.

Criticising the federal government for its indifferent attitude towards downstream flows from Kotri, Fatima Majid, Nisar

Khokhar and Mustafa Mirani expressed the view that such an attitude had made the life of local population miserable.

Endorsing their view, Mehboob Brohi, Mir Baloch and Dr Mukhtiar Mahar pointed out that due to non-release of sweet water downstream Kotri, some 1.8 million acres of fertile land in the coastal districts of Thatta, Badin and Sujawal had been eaten up by the sea. Hyper-salinity was rendering the lands next to the seashore barren, they said.

They urged the authorities concerned to take concrete measures on an emergency basis to save the four districts.

Participants adopted several resolutions urging the government not to build dams and barrages over the Indus, ensure release of a minimum 35maf water downstream Kotri and take urgent measures to save the Indus delta and ecology of the coastal belt.

One resolution said that wetlands in Sindh should be provided their legitimate share in the Indus water to protect livelihood of thousands of fishermen.

Later, the participants started their march to Hyderabad via the districts of lower Sindh.

حقن جي ترجمان، ڪمپيوٽر تي پهرين مڪمل اخبار
ڪراچي، حيدرآباد ۽ سکر مان هڪ ئي وقت شايع ٿيندڙ
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سال 28 - شمارو 67 | اربع 8 مارچ 2017، 8 جمادي الثاني 1438ھ | صفحا 12 - قيمت 15 روپيا

فشر فوڪ فورم درياھ ۽ ديپلٽا جي بحالي لاءِ جاڳرتا مهڙ ڇاپڻ جو فيصلو
درياھ ۾ پاڻي نه اچڻ سبب سنڌ جو نقشو تبديل ۽ لکين ماڻهو متاثر پيا ٿين: محمد علي شاھ

ڪوٽڙي کان هيٺ سنڌو درياھ ۾ پاڻي جو ڦڙو به نه ڇڏڻ سبب سمند اڳتي وڌي ساحلي پٽي جي ديپلٽائي خطي کي ڳڙڪائي رهيو آهي. سڄاول ۽ بدين ضلعن جو جاگرافيائي نقشو بدلجي رهيو آهي. حڪومتي سطح تي صرف قراردادون منظور ڪرڻ کانسواءِ قدر نٿا ڪنيا وڃن. معاملي جو نوٽيس وٺي، درياھ ۾ ڇوڙ واري هنڌ ديپلٽا تائين پاڻي جي فراهمي کي يقيني بڻايو وڃي. درياھن تي اڏيل سمورا ڊيم ڊهر ڊاهيا وڃن، ميواڙڪي ۽ خطاب (ٿر) سنڌو درياھ ۽ انڊس ديپلٽا جي بحالي لاءِ ماهيگر تنظيم فشر فوڪ فورم جي سنڌ تي وڃي دونهه ڊهر ڊريا خان پل هيٺان ميواڙڪو ڪي پيٽا ڏيڻ بعد ملاڪن جو سنڌ / ڪوٽڙي 2 ڪلڪلر 1 عوامي ڪاروان پنهنجو سفر شروع ڪري ڇڏيو آهي. جيڪو سنڌ جي لاڙ ٻارن ضلعن جو دورو ڪري درياھ جي بحالي ۽ ديپلٽا جي بقا خاطر شعوري جاڳرتا مهڙ هلائيندو. 14 مارچ درياھن جي عوامي ڏينهن جي حيدرآباد ۾ جلوس غار ۾ تبديل ٿي ويندو ان سلسلي ۾ فشر فوڪ فورم جي ميزباني هيٺ ٿئي ويجهو دولهه ڊريا خان پل هيٺان سنڌو دريا جي ڀيٽ ۾ تشڪيل ڏان تي ملاڪن جو هڪ ميواڙڪو منعقد ڪري سنڌو درياھ ۽ انڊس ديپلٽا جي بحالي لاءِ مڪاروان جي سفر جو آغاز ڪيو ويو. ميواڙڪي جي موقعي تي سنڌو درياھ ۾ ڳڙڪڻ جي پيٽا ڏئي سنڌو جي بحالي لاءِ دعائون گهريون ويون. جڏهن ته ميواڙڪي ۾ سماجي، علمي، ادبي ۽ سماجي وند ڏرين سميت ملاح تنظيمن جي اڳواڻن ۽ ملاڪن ڏني انگ ۾ شرڪت ڪئي.

چوهڙ جمالي: انڊس ديپلٽا جي بحالي لاءِ فشر فوڪ فورم طرفان ريلي ڪڍي پئي وڃي

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(جلد 27) اربع 08 مارچ 2017 ۽ بمطابق 08 جمادي الثاني 1438ھ (شمارو 214) قيمت 15 روپيا

فشر فوڪ فورم جو عوامي ڪاروان درياءَ کي دعائن سان دولهه درياءَ پل وٽان شروع

ڪوٽڙي کان هيٺ پاڻي نه ڇڏڻ ڪري سمند ديپلٽائي خطو ڳڙڪائي رهيو آهي: محمد علي شاھ

ديپلٽا ڇوڙ تائين پاڻي جي فراهمي کي يقيني بڻايو وڃي. درياءَ تي اڏيل ڊيم ڊهر ڊانا وڃن

ڪاروان جي سفر کان اڳ درياءَ کي گلن جي پيٽا، سڄاول ۽ چوهڙ جمالي ۾ ڪاروان پهچڻ تي شاندار استقبال

ٿنو/سڄاول/چوهڙ جمالي (تمائندن وٽان) فشر فوڪ فورم پاران درياءَ جي بحالي ۽ ديپلٽا تائين پاڻي جي ڇوڙ يقيني بڻائڻ ۽ سامونڊي پٽي ۾ پاڻي نه پهچڻ ڪري ٿيل تباهي جي آڙاڻي لاءِ اعلا ٿيل سنڌ عوامي ڪاروان دولهه درياءَ خان پل وٽان درياءَ ۾ ميواڙڪو ڪري پنهنجو سفر شروع ڪري ڇڏيو. دولهه درياءَ خان پل وٽان شروع ٿيل ڪاروان 14 مارچ تي حيدرآباد پهچندو. جڏهن ته سنڌ عوامي ڪاروان جي سڄاول شهر جي پبلڪ وٽ پهچڻ تي گلن جي ورکا ڪري شاندار آجيان ڪئي. شهري پٽ يڪجهڙي طور شريڪ ٿيا جنهن بعد چوهڙ جمالي جي شاهيندر چوڪ تي قافلي جو شاندار اڏر پاء ڪيو ويو. ڪاروان ۾ عورتن جو وڏو انگ موجود هو. ڪاروان ۾ شامل مهاڻا ۽ مختلف محڪمات فخر جا ماڻهو درياءَ جي بحالي لاءِ زوردار نعرا هڻندا رهيا. سنڌ عوامي ڪاروان جي شروعات کان اڳ دولهه درياءَ خان پل هيٺان سنڌو درياءَ جي ڀيٽ ۾ سڪل واري جي ڏٺڻ تي مهاڻن جي ميواڙڪي جي موقعي تي سنڌو درياءَ کي گلن جي پيٽا ڏئي سنڌو جي بحالي لاءِ دعائون گهريون ويون. ميواڙڪي کي خطاب ڪندي فشر فوڪ

فورم جي چيئرمين محمد علي شاھ چيو ته ڪوٽڙي کان هيٺ سنڌو درياءَ ۾ پاڻي جو ڦڙو به نه ڇڏڻ ڪري سمند تيزي سان اڳتي وڌي سنڌ جي ساحلي پٽي جي ديپلٽائي خطي کي ڳڙڪائي رهيو آهي. حڪومتي سطح تي صرف قراردادون منظور ڪرڻ کانسواءِ قدر نٿا ڪنيا وڃن. جنهن ڪري وقت جي ضرورت آهي ته معاملي جو سنجيدگي سان نوٽيس وٺي سنڌو درياءَ ۾ ڇوڙ واري هنڌ ديپلٽا تائين پاڻي جي فراهمي کي يقيني بڻايو وڃي ۽ درياھن تي اڏيل سمورا ڊيم ڊهر ڊاهيا وڃن. ڪاروان جي محمد علي شاھ، مير محمد بلوچ، ياسمين شاھ، گلاب شاھ ۽ ٻين اڳواڻن ڪشي، سڄاول ۾ پهتل ڪاروان کي خطاب ڪندي نواز شاھ پاڏائي چيو ته پنجاب سنڌ جي پاڻي تي قبضو ڪيو آهي. سنڌ جون زمينون بئجڙ آهن. جڏهن ته سنڌ عوامي ڪاروان چوهڙ جمالي مان جاتي طرف روانو ٿي ويو.

سن فشفوڪ جو عوامي ڪاروان حيدرآباد پهتو شاندار استقبال، جلسو

دريائن جي عالمي ڏهاڙي جي حوالي سان ٺهي مان نڪتل سنڌ عوامي ڪاروان ڪالھ پريس ڪلب پهتو، جلسي جي صورت اختيار ڪري ويو سمنڊ جي چاڙھ ۽ تباھ ڪاري کي انڊس ڊيلٽا ۾ پاڻي ڇڏي روڪي سگهجي ٿو پاڻي چورن خلاف ڪارروائي جي ضرورت آهي: محمد علي شاھ پنجاب پاران سنڌ جي حصي جو پاڻي چورائڻ بھ دهشتگردي جي زمري ۾ اچي ٿو سرڪار پاڻي بابت سمورن معاھدن تي نظرثاني ڪري

شاندار استقبال ڪيو ويو مارچ حيدرآباد جي مختلف علائقن مان ٿيندي حيدرآباد پريس ڪلب وٽ پهتو، جلسي جي صورت اختيار ڪري ويو عوامي ڪاروان مارچ کي خطاب ڪندي فشفوڪ جي چيئرمين سيد محمد بقايا نمبر 1 ڏسو صفحو 7

پاڻيچ هٿ ڪري ڏيو: ڪشمور واسي جو حيدرآباد ۾ نسيم نگر پوليس خلاف بڻين ڏينهن به احتجاج

حيدرآباد(سٽاف رپورٽر) ڪشمور جي رهواسي اسامه بخش دستي قاسم آباد جي نسيم نگر ٿاڻي جي پوليس پاران هٿ ڪيل دماغي مريض پنهنجي پاڻيچ ولي محمد کي گھر ڪرڻ خلاف حيدرآباد پريس ڪلب سامهون ڪالھ به احتجاج ڪيو ان موقعي تي هن ٻڌايو سندس پاڻيچ دماغي مريض آهي جنهن کي علاج لاءِ ڪشمور کان حيدرآباد آندو هن جيڪو 4 ڏينهن اڳ ڄامشورو ٽول پلازڙ پريان بقايا نمبر 2 ڏسو صفحو 7

نوشهروفيروز واسي ٿرڊيڪ پوليس

مجروح ٿيا آهن نواز شريف سنڌ جي ماڻهن سان پيار رکي ٿو سنڌ جي حصي جو چورائيل پاڻي واپس ڪرائي، پاڪستان فشفوڪ فورم پاران دريائن جي عالمي ڏهاڙي جي حوالي سان ٺهي مان نڪتل سنڌ عوامي ڪاروان مارچ حيدرآباد پهچڻ تي سماجي اڳواڻ طرفان

حيدرآباد(رپورٽ اعجاز لغاري) حيدرآباد ۾ دريائن جي عالمي ڏهاڙي جي حوالي سن فشفوڪ طرفان عوامي ڪاروان حيدرآباد پهتو فشفوڪ جي چيئرمين محمد علي شاھ چيو آهي ته نواز شريف سمنڊ کي بند ٻڌڻ واري اعلان سان انڊس ڊيلٽا جي ماڻهن جا جذبا



حيدرآباد: دريائن جي عالمي ڏينهن تي فشفوڪ فورم پاران نڪتل ريلي جو ڏيک(فوٽو: اختر پيڙداد)

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عوامي آواز

اڱارو 7 مارچ 2017 ع، 7 جمادي الثاني 1438ھ

دولھ دريا خان پل کان اڄ سنڌ عوامي قافلو نڪرندو

سنڌو درياءَ جي بحاليءَ لاءِ سنڌ عوامي ڪاروان سفر شروع ڪندو

ڪاروان حيدرآباد پڇندو. حڪومت تي دٻاءُ وڌو ويندو ته فطري وهرو سمنڊ ۾ ڇوڙ ڪيو وڃي ٿو (ڊر) فشفوڪ فورم پاران اڄ نٿي لڳ دولھ دريا خان پل هيٺيان سنڌو درياءَ جي بحالي ۽ ڊيلٽا سان تيل ناانصافيءَ جي ازالو لاءِ سنڌ عوامي ڪاروان جو سفر شروع ڪندو. رٿيل جلسي جون سموريون تياريون مڪمل ڪيون ويون آهن. ان ڏس ۾ نٿي ويجهو سنڌو دريا تي اڏيل دولھ دريا خان پل هيٺيان سنڌو درياءَ جي ڪناري تي وڏو عوامي ميڙاڪو منعقد ڪيو ويو آهي. جنهن کي فشفوڪ فورم جي چيئرمين محمد علي شاھ سميت مختلف سياسي، سماجي، علمي، ادبي ذريون خطاب ڪنديون. جڏهن ته رٿيل تقريب کان پوءِ سنڌ عوامي ڪاروان جا پانڊيٿا سنڌو درياءَ جي موج ۽ مستي لاءِ کيس گل نچاور ڪرڻ بعد پنهنجو سفر شروع ڪندا. قافلو سڃاڻل مان گذرڻ کان پوءِ جاتي ۾ رات ترسڻ بعد ٻئي ڏينهن بدين طرف روانو ٿيندو. ان ڏس ۾ فشفوڪ فورم جي اڳواڻ گلاب شاھ، مير بلوچ، ياسين شاھ ۽ ٻين نٿي ۾ صحافين سان ڳالهائيندي چيو ته سنڌ عوامي ڪاروان جي اقتصادي تقريب ۾ هڪ هزار کان وڌيڪ هاري، پورهيت، ماهيگير، سياسي، سماجي، علمي، ادبي تنظيمين جا اڳواڻ شرڪت ڪندا. هنن چيو ته ڪاروان سنڌو درياءَ تي اڏيل ڊيم ۽ ڪئنالن جي نتيجي ۾ سنڌ جي تاريخي سامونڊي پٽي ۾ آيل تباهي جون صدائون بلند ڪندي 14 مارچ دريائن جي عالمي ڏينهن جي موقعي تي حيدرآباد ۾ هزارين مهاڻن ۽ هارين جي ريلي ڪڍي حڪومت تي دٻاءُ وجهندا ته سنڌو تي اڏيل ڊيم ۽ ڪئنال فورن ختم ڪري ان جي فطري وهڪري کي سمنڊ ۾ ڇوڙ ڪرائي تيل نقصان جو ازالو ڪيو وڃي



14 March
International Rivers Day
دريائن جو عالمي ڏينهن
"Protect our Rivers and Delta"
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum
Sindh Peoples CARAVAN 2017

حيدرآباد: دريائن جي عالمي ڏينهن جي موقعي تي پاڪستان فشر فورم طرفان ريلي هڪڙي پئي وڃي

سمند تي بند جو منصوبو ڪريشن لاءِ آهي: محمد علي شاه

7 ڏينهن اڳ دولت دريا خان پل تان نڪتل فشر فوڪ جي ريلي حيدرآباد پهتي. سول سوسائٽي طرفان آجيان سنڌو سنڌ جي حياتي آهي. سنڌ جي ڌرتي کي دريائن جنم ڏنو. ان دريا کي ڏينس ۾ قيد ڪيو ويو آهي پنجاب ڏيلا جو پاڻي ڏينس سان روڪيو آهي. سمند ايتو درياھ ۾ وهي حيدرآباد جون زمينون تباھ ٿيڻ لڳي. پ پ ۽ نواز شريف حڪومتون ڪريشن جي نيت سان سمند تي بند ٻڌڻ جي ڳالهه ڪري رهيون آهن. حيدرآباد (انسٽيٽ) رپورٽر/پاڪستان فشر ۽ چيو آهي ته سمند جي ٻاڙهه ۽ ان جي آڳاٽي 35 ملين ايڪڙ فوٽ پاڻي فوٽ فورم جي سربراھ سيد محمد علي شاه (واڻ کي ڪڍڻ بند جي ڳالهه سان نه پر ڇڏڻ سان ئي روڪجي) اصلجو 4 نمبر 101

لاڙڪاڻي ريجنل ٽريڪٽر جي لشڪر ۾ موٽر سائيڪل سوار نوجوان فوٽ (لاڙڪاڻو/بکر/ٿرپارڪر) (انسٽيٽ وٽان) لاڙڪاڻي ريجنل ٽريڪٽر جي اصلجو 4 نمبر 103 مختصر خبرون

۽ ڀليد پئي: عمر ڀلڻ ڏيکارڻ لاءِ راءِ تي سونپڻ اسٽاپ ريجنل اصلجو 4 نمبر 104

ايس ايج او ڪشمور چور پڪڙڻ بدران 40 صحافين کي تالا ڏئي ڇڏيا! مهرباني ڪري موٽر سائيڪل کي تالا هڻو ته ٽن ڏينهن تان هوندي ايس ايج او پوليس جون ٽي سي سي بنجي شهرين کي گهر گهر تالا ٻهڙائي ڏنا آهن. شهري ايجا به ڪو صحافي رهيل آهي. ان کي به تالو فراهم ڪيو ويو. صحافين اڏوڏ گڏوڏ سمند لاءِ ڪشمور پوليس ۽ فئڪٽريل ڪارڻ بدران فوڪس فارم ۾ ايجاد شهر ۾ وڌندڙ موٽر سائيڪل جي چورين تي (ڪري روتو آهي) اصلجو 4 نمبر 102



14 March
International Rivers Day
دريائن جو عالمي ڏينهن
"Protect our Rivers and Delta"
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum
Sindh Peoples CARAVAN 2017

حيدرآباد: دريائن جي عالمي ڏينهن جي موقعي تي پاڪستان فشر فوڪ
فورم طرفان ريلي ڪڍي پئي وڃي


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2017 Actions

Map
Satellite

Celebrating International River Day through Sindh Peoples Caravan for the protection of our rivers and delta.

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum has planned to celebrate the International Rivers Day with a 14-day campaign named as Sindh Peoples Caravan. This 14-day long campaign will start from March 1, 2017 and after visiting the Sindh province will culminate on March 14, 2017 in the form of a massive people's assembly that will be participated by thousands of peoples fishing and peasant communities, civil society members, academia, government officials, media and other stakeholders. The Sindh Peoples Caravan celebrating the International Rivers Day will be carried out under the theme; Protect Our Rivers and Delta. Taking into consideration the aims and objectives of the International Rivers Day, the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum has planned to highlight the restoration of rivers in general in the River Indus in particular, the fresh water flow of 35 MAF Kotri downstream, the protection of Indus Delta and provision of fresh water in all the inland fresh water natural lakes.

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