Minutes — Lahore — 25.3.94 — (Pg 1)

(1) WAF as a forum/organization.
(2) WAF's relationships to other movements
(3) WAF members who represent
(4) conflict of interest when they belong to other org.
(5) Commitment - initiative
responsibility of members.

Representing WAF.
from minutes of ISI. minutes of
National Council out. See appendix.

ISI: Contributions from individuals can be taken but not from org.

Pivot: Background about registering WAF
Changed structure/character.
Is it a forum or an organization.
1981 WAF
1984 WAF registered.

Nature: NGO's + WAF relationship.
Parallel activity in WAF + NGO's.
NGO's have funds.

NGO identity vs WAF identity

Anis: Always WAF people took load of work not numbers of other org.

~~Anglah~~:

Meena: Is WAF redundant?

Isl: We do not have a war vs NGO problem.
Need to share information if WAF + Aloes.

Meena: Problem was in every chapter was as brought up at National convention

Kanan: WAF represents a mind-set which is imp.
Issue of Strategy.

Rani: What has happened to the larger G.B Lhr. used to have?

Nora: What is WAF doing which is different to what other NGO's are doing.

Tahira Abd! Internal Bickering turns people off.

Tahira (Ln) WAF is not well organized.
We were fighting against dictatorship in the beginning.
WAF is redundant.
WAF played an imp. role in the past.

Pixie: WAF is a Voluntary org. —

Nedim: Donors maynot last forever — Then what.

Meena: Reporting on Awat - conversation with Nigar —>
WAF is needed.
Awat is not an activist org.
WAF needs to be run like an organization — or run it like a platform.

Farida: What is our strength?
WAF platform was available for all org.

WAF should remain as the main following platform.

a platform - that problems should be solved out.

Anis: WAF degenerating
Need to give more time + commitment
to WAF to make it effective.

Rami: Previous G.B members feel there is too much dictating + are intimidated by some members of WAF.

~~Address~~
Mubarika:

Tahira [Lbr]: No communication among membership.
Many people who came in the beginning left - they felt WAF has become too ~~politicised~~ political.

Neelam: Work out logistics -

Tahira [Lbr] Shd:
WAF has a radical image which scares people.
Public image is imp. if you need to get members.
No sharing - feeling of alienation + exclusiveness among G.B.

Valerie: Purpose + way of funded
NGOs

Kanyon: distrust amongst ourselves [WAF]
Internal conflicts + resentments
Should be sorted out.

Dixie: Must work out relationships within
WAF.

Naseene: View of WAF is different.
How should WAF function?

Farida Shaw: WAF lacks commitment now.
Not prepared to listen to
internal conflicts + hostility in WAF.

Azus: Hostility - why?
Is it % of competition in NGO's?
Not enough sharing among members.

Nadine: NGOs picking expertise + losing
WAF edge.
Distrust always there.

Nyla: Are we becoming fundamentalist
WAFers?
Verbalise problems.
Role of WAF?

Pixie: Need to see the issues
confronting WNF vis. Black's.

Tahira [Ik] Intra Black's conflicts are part of the problem of WNF.

Tahira [Ik] Beijing is important.
Preparatory committee should be made by the start.
WNF should ask for advice

~~Rami~~:
Kawsar: Lets Focus on something - prioritize.

Rami: Women's movement is larger than WNF.

Pixie:
① Changed situation - political
② More organizations
③ Lot of activism being funded
What do we do with WNF?

Anis: Sort out internal conflicts first.

Tahira [Ik] Is WNF useful?
Why do people not come to G.B?

Rami: We are doubting each others integrity - That's the difference.
We end up immobilizing each other.

Marginalisation of NGO activity.

Pixie [Role of WAF?]

Catalyst – Lobbying – Pressure group

Kausar: Do we have a vision of society? Consciousness Raising work is there.

~~Catalyst~~

Meena: Who is WAF?

Farzana: Work with groups

Anis: Only a few people who do the Practical work?

Tahira [Shr] Just being a pressure group is not such a big problem – With this org. we can only be a pressure group.

~~Nughat~~

Anis: We have less commitment - active.

Tahira [Shr]

Fauzia: [illegible] communication is needed.
Burn out is there also.
Lost out on solidarity.

Nuzhat: We are not identifying the cause
of lack of solidarity.

Madiha: Not attending meeting; I'm too
involved in my own work.
No clarity.
Situation has changed ∴ perceptions
have changed.
Change from platform to org - has affected WAF.

Neelam: As a pressure group we cannot
take stands.

Objectives of WAF

Meena: WAF has a lot of credibility & still.
~~still~~ ~~th~~
WAF is still providing the
umbrella.

Nuzhat: Has NAO work died into WAF?

Samya: Lack of action

Leader: Reminding of what (VP)
as a group have Elder members.
Earlier people worked.
What happened to the vision?

Tuhina [illegible] Become a matter of personal ego.

Kanan: Let's be specific not general.

Pixie: How do we deal with this NGO problem?

Nandini: Separate NGO's has created the problem - how do we solve this?

Kanan: We must look at ourselves

Anil: We must face the reality - face the internal problems among ourselves.

Neelam: Publicly I always need to defend all WHPers - more solidarity earlier which is no longer there.
Goals are clear
Strategy problems.

Kani: Everyone is not participating.

Nizhat: People do not take responsibility.

Nalam: We should not have fragmentation

Tausef: Lets bring up the issue of the telegrams etc etc.

Rani: How does a WHF function?

We have violated democratic principles.

Principle of how it was dealt with.

We were not there - Action was taken within 10 hours - then asked to explain.

We wrote letter to G.B members who were at that WHF meeting.

Position was not presented objectively at the National convention.

Neelam : Election committee - Meena Neelam Tanveer

We take responsibility for mishandling the situation.

Rani : Sundal jak did not get letter sent to us.

Meena : The G.B should also take responsibility for action taken.

Fareeda : it was not discussed at ~~Executive~~ Shahid G.B before Convention.

~~Nazhat~~

Nazhat : Why was it taken to N. Convention?

Meena :

Meena : Farah did not come to meetings. ~~We as~~

Fareeda Shahid : Why didn't you call one of us.

Farida Shaw : This is just an example

of NGO problems.

We ~~are~~ have grievances ~~which~~ we need to talk about

Rani: At the Root is a certain attitude.
Questioning what is happening to us.

Afiq: ~~Is the~~ W. Committee is talking about attitudes.
Perception is that one person was named as responsible for this.
Documents did not take names.

Meena: WAF is should take responsibility not something personal between Bunny, Farida + Rani.

Neelam: It was a difficult situation.
Responded emotionally also.

~~Bunny +~~

Bunny: It's become personalized.

Bunny: Akhtar Hamid Khan

issue ↓

spoke to convener

it should be brought

Waf ~~Meena~~ decided ~~to bring it up~~ at G.B

G.B decided that Afia should write letter + send letter immediately.

Popti put it on agenda.

No one was interested in letter

Afia called 5 people who agreed to the letter.

Fax sent through ~~ASR~~ ASR's office.

Farah was pulling a fast one at conference - + WAF was not mentioned.

Shinkat gah does not admit to a mistake committed by Farah & insist WAF was not mentioned.

Delay by WAF was a mistake.

Of why

Wishy Washy letter was sent by Post to working committee.

Fareeda Shaheed: You have to stop distrusting people.

Farah did hand over WAF document.

We would like copy of letter.

Meena: Old W. Committee dictated letter

Neelam: Why did. W.C

Delay will be fatal - G.B agreed to send clarification that this is ~~not~~ WAF material. NOT MW [illegible].

~~Afia~~: ~~Not~~ Accusation Should not ~~have~~ been made.

Afia: I / wrote the letter ~~as~~ and but 5 other people saw it.

Bunny: WAF allowed this issue to be personalized.

Meena: At N. Convention we have to support G.B decision but in my individual capacity I can disagree amongst ourselves.

Afiq: We should decide whether we need space to listen?

Bunny: Relationship of NGO's is a bigger issue which has to be sorted out.

HBF??

L. Reform

Funding.

Consortium

Fareed Shahnaz: I said we are trying to get funding.

H.B F was out of it.

Bunny -

Nuzhat, What is taking away our activism?

Kanwal, I can't understand this Problem with NGO's.

Hina, Not an NGO problem
WAF problem
Members of NGO's are most active in WAF.

Whenever action has to be taken we go a WAF

Other orgs give people more space to move.

WAF is still functional; the kind of issues WAF deals with require mirred response you need an accountable WC that can respond mirred. Mechanisms lacking

Tahira:. You can stand this argument on its head as well.

If the same people who were in WAF

Peace. As long as the NGOs work does not clash on WAF's lines there was no problem but when a founder member says WAF is redundant

- what do you do?

Kokum That person should then be challenged

Pixie Recent platforms have resulted in one or two incidents where they did not feel the need to involve WAF

Trend or not?

I see it as a trend so how should WAF deal?

Hoia There has been no intention to keep WAF out

Bunny It is a major issue People are getting involved so much within constraints of them are NGOs time etc. Have not created the type of activists for WAF.

When his NGOs initially a process WAF working founder members becomes one of. within it not the form why did they not think of doing it under the WAF umbrella?

Rukmini Project work deactivating but also depoliticising NGOs supposed to feed activists into WAF + when they do they are criticised for it

Jenda Why did you not do 'Celebration of woman as WAF

Bunny Taking funds made office to following activity & WAF & then refused

Hunt WAF has its own position
No need for explanations
WAF has not lost its initiative because of these people working in NGOs
If an org. has been isolated or excluded it is unfortunate & was a mistake
We have been working for women in the last 15 years but WAF should expand its own base if it is outside - mass base orgs are growing.
WAF has collectively taken significant decisions An imp pos within human rts context.
Unfair to say that WAF has conceptual problems

Nurhat Basic prob within WAF where have our energies been dissipated & need to be addressed
Resentments remain.
What do we do to address this prob?

Anis NGOs are reality WAF has been drained & the same people are now rep. Other NGOs
Basic norms & rules need to set out for WC

Nadeha: In a way WAF has become irrelevant. It needs to expand. How?

Tahera WAF within itself those who are not assoc. with NGOs feel threatened.

Those within NGOs want to know why they are paranoid

Fenda In Energies within WAF have been reduced. Last years experience has been v upsetting when issues were sent to WAF weren't acted upon again & again so we feel we ourselves should take it up

Rani Till this incident Shirkatgah had been v active & contributing heavily to WAF not a ques of competing.

Huma NGOs not membership orgs. - basic diff. Diff. by its v nature has potential for mass mobilisation if it is to be revitalised.

Always diffs between indivs & NGOs & should be sorted out outside WAF

Bunny Crisis within WAF nothing new just localised just within last year.

Work to be done as WAF or as our respec. NGOs Some work ie requires funds is v clear

"but where it is fuzzy we usually do it as HR increasingly.

We have not tried to activate the women we work with that is a question for all of us + one where we have succeeded.

Dilemma in each issue we take up. Can easily do many of these things as HR

Tendency to ignore new people.

Tahira — Numbers question
What is WAF image?

Neelam — WAF NGO scene.
Do believe in WAF + that it has to go on when issues are brought to WAF they are not picked up. ie funds for acid burn victims
Examine own strategies

Jocelyn — Difficult to come in from the periphery.
No pump within WAF who can take a letter etc + give a response to people who may want to start a chapter. Some kit should be made available for them.
Can some NGOs make a small contrib towards the publication of this book of poetry

Pervez — Who is WAF? WC comm always expected to take up every issue

Kokum. Linked orgs of actively involved in women's issues. Richness of orgs in Lahore which may be creating some of its own problems

Hania Nice bit to say that there are new orgs of one mind

Feroda Sh. Keep raising issues of mobilisation. As young people for new strategies. Oldies should withdraw + give space to the young

Samiya Something concrete is necessary; easier if jam if things were working.

Afia In WAF since college. Don't think bickering etc. has kept people away.
Vacillation within WAF is depleting, no concerted policy frustrating.

Ruby Never had ideological clarity

Kokum Are younger people given the space to make an input? (Gave an example of K'che) should say what they want to do + the support they need.

Madeha Need for renewal of goals. Daughters not recent new blood. Need to go to Lahore Coll Islamia Coll etc

Feroda Sher Agree with Ruby but in the early years of

WAF there was a lot of thinking it may not have contd.

People who are committed should bring it into WAF

Ruby WAF must have some policy - are we against privatization -

Bunny I We don't have time to mobilize - in colleges etc. - easier to mobilize among people we work with.

Must have people who can put in some work - younger people perhaps - but younger people don't have the commitment, and were not able to do anything.

Tahira [ISI] For mobilization we have to think of our image.

Are things going to change after this meeting?

No clear WAF policy - WAF asking for Capital Punishment??

Hina I Thinking is necessary so people can decide if they want to join WAF.

We ~~sho~~ are radical + we don't want to change this. We have to decide what is negotiable + what is not.

We have to have "convincing power".

WAF can not hold organizations accountable.

Why are people not joining us?
- We should not change our ideals if we think they are correct.

Rami: We've stopped strategizing.
Present our view in a better way.
What do we offer people? [Saniya]

Afra: I ~~was~~ joined ∵ of WAF's radical position.
Problem is initiative

Pixie: 8th March - WAF has joined other org. ~~under~~ with.

Bunny: Earlier APWA + DWA etc were taking initiative.
Now we have NGO's + WAF and I would think of WAF for March 8th.
When do we wear WAF's hat?

Nazneen

Hina: Not possible to give priority to WAF in one's own organization.

Kokum: Propose something concrete.
One document with our policy on issues
Plus an orientation programme.

Have WAF alumni.

Ruby: Sweeping things under the carpet.
WAF identity used to be very strong among founder members
over the years the same people have changed priorities.

Hina: WAF has also taken advantage of people.

Tahina [ISL] Problems at a solvable level.
should be solved.
Don't take funding but NGO's should help.

All
NGO's are helping

~~Ruby~~:

Hina: (1) Compile WAF positions.
(2) Attend as many meetings as possible so you are part of the process of doing something.
(3) Give me mailing list I will post letters for 1 year.

- People should be Elected not co-opted

Expand Working Committee mandate if necessary.

Call G.B meeting + announce elections.
Even if 2 people are elected they will be responsible for decisions - others can be co-opted but only the elected members are responsible.

Afia: Will share work with WAF.

Hina: Decide what to do with NGO's who work against concrete WAF positions?

Rani: We have to accept certain differences amongst ourselves.

Winding Up.

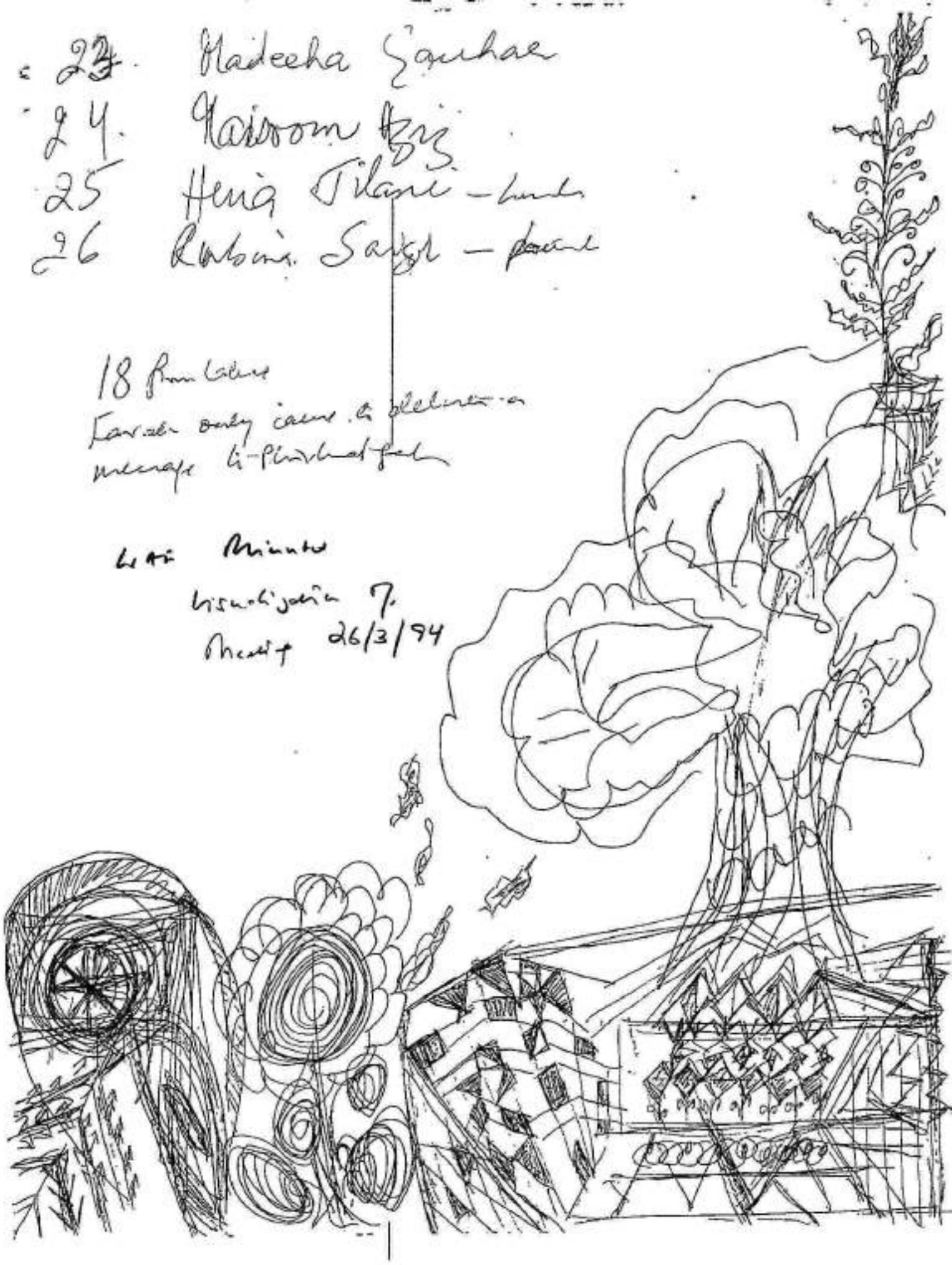
Neelam: WAF and NGO's
Reality of NGO's
Was WAF being depleted:
of NGO activity:
Working relationships within WAF.
WWHL issue was taken up and

Agenda:

- Pixie, Someone was interested in writing history of WAF

WAF Meeting 26/3/94.

1. Neelam Hussain
2. Fareeha Rahman
3. Tahira Abdullah — Isl.
4. Rabia Khan — Isl.
5. Farah Naz
6. Nasreen Shah
7. Nuzhat Kidwai — Kar.
8. Anis Haroon — Kar
9. Farida Shaheed
10. Nora Fernadez — Kar
11. Nighat S. Khan
12. Afia Zia
13. Ferida Sher
14. Khawar Mumtaz
15. Sania Mumtaz
16. Tahira Naghar Khan
17. Tauseef Hayat
18. Samina Rahman
19. Joyce Ott-Saeed
20. Kauser S.K. Kar
21. Mubarika (NDF)
22. Farzana (Adv - Anti-pornography Ord. WAF) ~~Asma~~ ~~23~~ ~~Asma~~ ~~23~~ ~~Asma~~ ~~23~~


23. Nadeeha Gunhas
24. Naisoom Hzs
25 Hena Tilani – Lunch
26 Rabia Sattar – Journal
18 Room Labels
Lat: Minutes
Mtg 26/3/94