



Manchester Evening News

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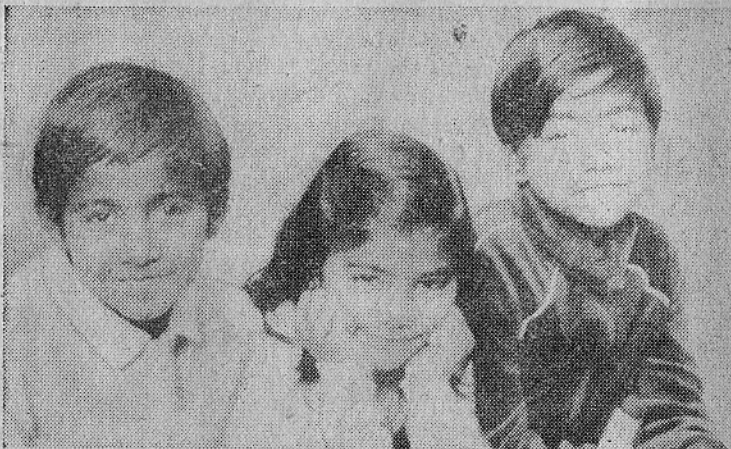
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BRITAIN'S BIGGEST REGIONAL EVENING NEWSPAPER

Mum who waits for a hug...



The faces of freedom (from left) Imran, Saima and Kamran.

MRS Anwar Ditta was excitedly getting ready for the happiest day of her life today.

For this afternoon she will get to hug and kiss the three children she has not seen for six years.

The heartache of separation will vanish in an instant when their jet lands at Manchester Airport on the last leg of its mercy flight from Pakistan.

And the smiles of Kamran, aged 11, eight-year-old Imran and Saima, aged seven, will herald the start of a new life for the mother

who has fought long and hard for the reunion.

"I don't know what I will say to them when I actually see them after all this time.

"All I know is that I am thrilled and happy that we will all be together again," Mrs Ditta said at her home in Crawford Street, Rochdale.

"In the past three weeks I've spoken to my children four times on the 'phone from Pakistan and they also told me how much they are looking forward to being with me.

"It's always great to talk to them, but it's not the same as having them back with me. That will be just wonderful."

When the Home Office reversed its earlier decision and finally gave the go ahead for the children to come to Britain, their father 34-year-old Shuja Ditta, flew to Pakistan to make arrangements.

For the past 24 hours Mrs Ditta, with friends and relatives, has kept herself occupied by decorating her terrace house for the homecoming — and preparing a

menu of her children's favourite Asian dishes.

A massive "welcome home" banner has pride of place in the living room and balloons and streamers form a festive canopy trailing from the ceiling.

A big 'celebration' party will be held later, but first Mrs Ditta is planning a private family homecoming.

She has stocked her larder with nuts, fruit, cakes and several Eastern delicacies. And she has prepared a banquet of rice dishes and chapatis, which she knows

are her children's favourite.

And for the children, who have never been to England, there will be another surprise — they will meet their five-year-old sister, Samera, for the first time.

"This is not just a victory for Mrs Ditta, but for the hundreds of people who are in exactly the same position as she was," said Mr Tarlochan Gata-Aura, chairman of the defence committee which has battled for her over the years.

"This campaign has by no means stopped — it is just the beginning."



The mum who waits... Mrs Anwar Ditta.