

GOVT NEWS  
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## Right to know

The writer is an activist and researcher, and director of Bolo Bhi, an advocacy forum for digital rights.



IT is alarming how in the aftermath of the Faizabad sit-in in November, a discussion regarding the infringement of citizens' rights has been conspicuously absent. The state apparatus blacked out news channels on TV, suspended social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube, suspended mobile phone signals in selected areas, and failed to reopen essential road routes. These uncalled for acts were a blatant violation of the fundamental rights of freedom of movement, freedom of speech, and the right to information as guaranteed by Article 15, 19, and 19-A respectively of the Constitution.

These actions seem symptomatic of the government's legitimate paranoia relating to attempts to derail democratic process, but it is unacceptable for a democratic government to agree to make the rights of citizens the collateral damage of misplaced security strategies.

The reasoning behind the media and social media blackout appears to have been to avoid coverage of the government's proposed action against the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah protesters, and to restrict the incitement of hatred by them. This is a problematic approach for several reasons.

*Media blackouts give rise to rumour and panic.*

First, citizens have the right to know what is happening in their country on a critical issue. The state cannot play a paternalistic role whereby it decides what information should and shouldn't be consumed by the citizens.

Second, blacking out information when it is so readily available otherwise is counterproductive and can create panic amongst citizens. It also makes them vulnerable to misinformation and disinformation as in the absence of the usual and more reliable sources of information, rumours abound.

Third, the government must take action against groups for hate material rather than taking away access to news channels and social media from citizens. Further, the government's information apparatus such as the information ministry should be alert and capable of issuing timely statements to counter perceived propaganda instead of attempting to black it out.

Fourth, the blocking of social media platforms is useless in the face of readily available technologies such as Virtual Private Networks that circumvent censorship through proxies and enable access to blocked content.

Lastly, the impact of such blackouts on business is immense. TV channels had to suffer losses, and the importance of social media for businesses, especially small ones, cannot be underestimated anymore. The government, if serious about democratic governance, must take the concerns of businesses seriously.

Same goes for the cellular network outages on most public holidays, such as Independence Day, Pakistan Day, Ashura, Eid-i-Miladun Nabi, etc. Action must be focused on militant outfits that plan and carry out attacks, not on law-abiding citizens that have a right to information and access to communication technologies.

Whereas cellular network outages occur a few times a year in the urban centres, this is a lived reality for more than five million Pakistanis residing in Fata. Mobile internet services have remained suspended in all agencies of Fata since June 2016, and mobile signals have been suspended in Mohmand Agency for

the past ten months. Similarly, areas in Balochistan close to the Afghan border have also had mobile internet and cellular network suspensions.

The Universal Service Fund exists in Pakistan in the form of billions of rupees mandated for expanding access to cellular and internet services in Pakistan. It is high time the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication acts on its mandate and focuses on peripheral regions of Pakistan as well rather than only the urban centres.

It is rather absurd to have to repeat the importance of mobile phone and mobile internet in this day and age. Especially for the large number of Fata residents who work in the Gulf region and send remittances, the internet is a reliable and affordable way to stay in touch with family back home.

Further, social media is an important tool for citizens, especially youth, of Fata to stay connected with the rest of the country and beyond, and express their views and participate in political processes. How does the government expect progress in education, healthcare, science, and research in Fata if even basic amenities such as telephony and internet services are denied to law-abiding citizens?

It is high time that the state apparatus in Pakistan refocuses its energy on human security and makes it a fundamental part of the national security strategy. What good is spending billions of rupees on security when citizens are denied fundamental rights? It is time cellular network and media outages are relegated to the past as they should be in a democratic society, with a focus on the right to access information and communication technologies while militant outfits are dismantled from their core.

(By Usama Khilji Dawn, 09, 07/01/2018)

## **Sindh plans to register Chinese coming through land routes**

Noticing an 'alarming' increase in frauds at ATMs in the provincial capital, the Sindh government has decided to approach the federal government to make relevant laws enabling Sindh to get the Chinese nationals entering Sindh through land routes duly registered, a senior official in the government said on Friday.

"Our government is going to ask Islamabad to make such laws to enable us to register all those Chinese nationals who enter Sindh through land routes after alarming increase in skimming incidents at the ATM machines of banks," said an official statement quoting Sindh Law Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar.

He was referring to a recent incident in which Karachi police took two Chinese men into custody from the Zainab Market area over suspicions that they were stealing data of bank customers through ATM skimming devices.

Police said they had seized ATM skimming machines and other equipment from the suspects. The law minister said the government had noticed tangible hike in the cases of skimming devices being installed at bank ATMs aiming at stealing data of account holders.

He said the Sindh government would write to the federal authorities that such legislation for registration of the Chinese nationals, particularly those entering Sindh through land routes, was extremely important.

The law minister said that at present, the Sindh government did not have the data of Chinese nationals living in the province.

The law minister said the Sindh government had been trying to get registered Chinese nationals visiting Sindh, however, at present, the federal government possessed data of the Chinese nationals visiting Pakistan by air.

However, he added, Islamabad too did not have the data of the Chinese coming to the country through land routes. However, he said, the federal authorities also had the data regarding the Chinese companies working in Pakistan.

The law minister said that every Chinese national renting residential accommodation in Sindh would be required to duly register him/her with the police station concerned.

He said that under the proposed policy, the unregistered Chinese coming to the province through land routes would be required to get a no-objection certificate from the Sindh home ministry before opting to reside or do business anywhere in Sindh.

(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 18, 13/01/2018)

## **CJP takes private medical colleges, hospitals to task in Sindh**

The Supreme Court (SC) constituted on Saturday a five-member committee for the inspection of private medical colleges to report on admission procedures and determine the availability of teaching facilities across the province.



The committee will comprise the provincial health secretary, vice-chancellors of Jinnah Medical University, Aga Khan University and Dow University of Health Sciences and two senior lawyers.

A three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Mian Saqib Nisar, which constituted the inspection team, also ordered the medical superintendents of all hospitals to submit their personal affidavits, along with details relating to availability of medical and treatment facilities, functional and non-functional equipment, strength of the staff and transfers and postings of medical staff.

To begin with, the committee was directed to conduct inspection of Jinnah Medical University tomorrow (Monday).

The bench, which also comprised justices Faisal Arab and Sajjad Ali Shah, issued these directives while hearing a suo motu case relating to poor conditions of public and private health facilities in the province at the SC's Karachi Registry.

Justice Nisar clarified that the proceedings were not meant to stop the process of admissions at the private medical colleges. "We are sitting here to safeguard the fundamental rights of the citizens," he added.

CJP suspends medical college VC, summons Rajwana's son

However, the top judge told the representatives of private medical colleges and universities that admissions will now be subjected to the order of the court.

It directed the provincial health secretary and others to submit the criteria and procedures required for admissions at private colleges and universities.

Meanwhile, the apex court granted 15 days to the private medical colleges and varsities' management to ensure implementation on the laws regulating admissions, teaching and other facilities.

Supreme Court upholds LHC decision to disband PMDC

Justice Nisar cautioned them that implementation of the laws will be ensured at any cost, therefore the management of the private medical colleges as well as the hospitals must mend their ways.

The bench directed the medical superintendents of all the hospitals run by the government to submit complete record relating to availability of treatment facilities, functional and non-functional equipment, strength of the staff, their transfers and postings. Such reports should be supported by the personal affidavits of the medical superintendents, the judges ordered.

The bench asked Dr Asim Hussain, the head of the Dr Ziauddin chain of private hospitals, to assist the court in resolving the issue of excessive fee charged by private colleges.

Small quarters, garages being used as medical colleges: Justice Nasir

“We want that the children of the poor should also become doctors. Education is not only for the rich,” remarked Justice Nisar.  
VVIP movement

The CJP set an example for ending the VIP culture by visiting the mausoleum of Mohammad Ali Jinnah without any protocol early Saturday morning.

Later, while hearing a human rights application against the blockade of public thoroughfares and roads for the VVIPs movement, the CJP ordered that no public thoroughfare or road should be blocked for movement of any political or VVIP personality all over the country.

“The SC will not tolerate suffering of the public because of road blockades,” he remarked. He directed the provincial government to ensure that public roads should not be blocked for more than two minutes, as prescribed in the law.

Earlier, Advocate-General Barrister Zamir Ghumro said that the law provides for interrupting vehicular traffic on the roads for two minutes due to VVIP movements. However, he maintained that no public thoroughfare in the province had been blocked on a permanent basis.

( By Naeem Sahoutara, THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE , 04, 14/01/2018)

### **VVIP roadblocks to last only two minutes, SC orders**

The Supreme Court (SC) has directed the Sindh inspector-general (IG) of police to ensure that no roads are blocked for more than two minutes for VVIPs who are entitled to traffic blocks as per already laid down rules.



Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Mian Saqib Nisar passed this order, which was released on Tuesday, on a human rights application against blockades on public thoroughfares and roads during VVIPs' movement.

Along with Justice Faisal Arab and Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, the CJP had heard the matter at the SC Karachi Registry on Saturday.

The apex court's human rights cell had received an application seeking direction for the Sindh government authorities to stop blocking public roads during movement of the VVIPs, as it caused great inconvenience to the people, who remained stuck in prolonged traffic jams.

The SC had issued notices to the provincial advocate-general and IG to file their comments to explain the rationale behind the alleged prolonged blockades on public thoroughfares during the VVIPs' movement.

No matter who the VVIP movement is for, citizens of Karachi shouldn't be affected: CJP  
During Saturday's proceedings, IG Allah Dino Khawaja had in categorical terms informed the judges that no road was permanently blocked for any political or state VVIP functionaries. However, he stated that certain VVIPs were entitled to traffic blocks as per the Blue Book, keeping in view their security needs.

After hearing the arguments, CJP Nisar ordered, “If that being so, as per the Blue Book the traffic block should be imposed strictly for not more than two minutes so that minimum inconvenience is caused to the public”. The top judge stated that there was a possibility that people in emergency situations could be stuck in long traffic jams which would pose a risk to their lives.

Pending plea

A similar petition against VVIP culture and blocking of public roads in Sindh has been pending disposal at the Sindh High Court (SHC) for the last year.

In January 2017, the Ansar Burney Trust had approached the SHC after a 10-month-old girl had died when her family was allegedly not allowed to enter Civil Hospital, Karachi due to security measures put in place for the arrival of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other party leaders.

**ABAD welcomes SC verdict on high-rise construction**

Bisma, a resident of Gabol Park in Lyari, had been suffering from the measles and had a high fever when her father, Faisal, brought her to the hospital. He arrived at the trauma centre entrance, which was manned by security officials for the arrival of Bilawal, then chief minister Qaim Ali Shah and others.

Shagufta Burney, a representative of the trust, told The Express Tribune that the plea is still pending disposal at the SHC. However, she felt satisfied with the apex court's order to the IG for ensuring that the traffic did not remain blocked for more than two minutes during VVIP movement. (THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE, 05, 17/01/2018)

### **Sindh unhappy with 'slow' funding by federal govt**

The Sindh government, which is executing 27 out of the 126 projects launched by the federal government in **Sindh, has** so far received Rs7.4 billion for them out of the total sanctioned amount of Rs27.3bn.



This emerged during the preparatory meeting summoned by Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah at the CM House here on Thursday for the National Economic Council's (NEC) upcoming meeting scheduled to be held in Islamabad on

Monday.

The agenda of the NEC meeting, to be presided over by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, will be approving development schemes and their cost in addition to finalising the five-year economic plan from 2018 to 2023.

#### *Meeting discusses proposals for next budget*

Mr Shah said he would discuss the issue of lack of funding by the federal government with the premier and advise him to start work on Jamshoro-Sehwan dual carriageway at the earliest.

#### **12-hour paediatric OPD**

The chief minister was also given a presentation on child health in Sindh by the Child Life Foundation.

Mr Shah directed the health department to work out a plan for running OPDs in all government hospitals from 8am to 8pm.

The presentation indicated that 250 children under the age of five died every year. Around 21,000 children were brought to hospitals every day and 43 per cent of them belonged to poor families, facing different health issues.

"It is the responsibility of the government to provide health facility to every child," the chief minister said.

Recalling that 6,000 doctors had recently been recruited to overcome shortage of doctors, he directed the health secretary to prepare a plan for establishing a well-equipped child health facility in every district headquarters.

"I would prefer to engage private sector so that quality health services could be ensured," he said.

#### **Next budget**

Presiding over a meeting to discuss the financial budget for 2018-19, he gave directions to his team to control non-development expenditures and increase allocations for the social sector such as education, health and water schemes, and complete them on time.

The meeting was informed that during 2016-17 the provincial receipts, including SRB (GST on services), tax excluding GST etc, were Rs159.3bn and during 2017-18 the estimated amount is Rs199.627bn.

During the current financial year, 2,974 schemes, including 2,158 ongoing and 816 new are in progress against an amount of Rs244bn, including Rs39.884m revenue.  
(By Habib Khan Ghorani Dawn 17, 23/02/2018)

## **Civil society charter wants political parties, state to ensure dialogue in policymaking**

Civil society organisations and rights activists on Sunday called upon all major political parties to respect and ensure minimum human rights standards and recommendations and demands set forth in the civil society's charter of demands concerning human rights for the upcoming elections.

Speaking at a joint press conference at the Karachi Press Club, representatives of various civil society organisations, trade unions, business groups, intellectuals and professional organisations such as bar councils, medical staffs, journalist unions released a charter.

They said the state of Pakistan was committed and responsible for the well-being and progress of its people to be achieved through and with regard to the promises made in the Constitution as well as its international obligations, including the UN treaties, SDGs, GSP+ and similar other international obligations.

*Policy of branding rights activists as foreign agents is counterproductive*

"We are committed to addressing and upholding the supremacy of law, fundamental rights and dignity of all citizens," a joint declaration said.

**Support for political process**

They said the civil society groups presented the charter of demands reiterating their resolve to support the political process and system as prerequisites for democratic and accountable and inclusive governance responsive enough towards recognising, respecting, protecting and fulfilling the universally acknowledged rights of the people of Pakistan.

The charter demanded empowering women; ensuring protection and safety of children; countering the youth bulge; providing accessible and quality education; ensuring workers' rights, ensuring the rights of religious minorities; guaranteeing the rights of transgender persons and enabling spaces for civic actions.

The charter asked the political parties to pledge that local laws would be amended according to UN obligations Pakistan had agreed to in consonance with the UN declaration of human rights defenders, and implement the measures to ensure safety and security of the defenders in the country.

They underlined the need to ensure active dialogue with civil society and citizens at large to ensure policy formulation at all levels was participatory and governance was effective.

They welcomed the progress regarding developments for the Fata reforms saying the process of reforms and policy implementation should be based in accordance with the feedback of the people of Fata.

**New body to tackle enforced disappearance demanded**

The charter was wary of the increasing number of enforced disappearances and the lack of action by the existing commission and demanded a new independent commission to tackle the issue; or the existing commission should be revamped with the inclusion of investigation experts.

It suggested the political parties and the state at large to view civil society members as counterparts in the struggle to overcome the shared challenges faced by the country.

“The current policy of opposition towards the civil society members and branding members as foreign agents is counterproductive for the country as a whole.”

They said the country had a large portion of population on the internally displaced person (IDP) status; the government should have a national policy on IDPs by recognising the UN guiding principles for IDPs, including Pinheiro Principles, to ensure non-discrimination and their resettlement.

The civil society organisations, which endorsed the charter, included Women in Struggle for Empowerment, South Asia Partnership-Pakistan, Blue Veins, Pakistan Coalition for Education, Strengthening Participatory Organisation, Aurat Foundation, Centre for Social Justice, NOW Communities, Pakistan Fisher-Folk Forum, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research, Legal Aid and Awareness Services, Khwendo Kor, Noor Education Trust, SPARC, Takra Qabailee Khwendy, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, National Council for Minority Rights and Human Rights Committee of Pakistan.

The charter has been handed to the Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan, PML-Functional, PML-Q, Awami National Party, Balochistan National Party, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Jamaat-i-Islami and Qaumi Watan Party.

(By Hasan Mansoor Dawn 15, 26/02/2018)

### **Anwar Lal Dean's election paves way for minorities in Senate**

The recent Senate elections may have lost credibility in the people's eyes due to accusations of large-scale horse-trading, but the victories of a few candidates from underprivileged groups, marginalised communities and minorities is a positive omen that has helped revive hope in the system.



One such beacon of hope is Anwar Lal Dean who has been elected against the single reserved seat for minorities in Sindh. He belongs to the Christian community and received 113 votes on the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) ticket in the recent elections. The other aspirant for the seat, Muttahida Qaumi Movement – Pakistan's Sanjay Perwani, only managed to secure 28 votes.

As soon as the Senate election results were announced on Saturday evening, Dean, along with a few friends and party workers, went to a roadside stall in Saddar to have a celebratory cup of tea.

### **Krishna Kohli first ever Dalit woman nominated for Senate**

The senator, who has a humble background, lives in a rented two-bedroom apartment in Saddar. He can usually be seen riding his motorcycle, his sole means of transportation, to complete his daily errands. Even the motorcycle has been purchased on lease and he is still paying for it in installments.

Earlier in the day he was elected senator, he had dropped his children to school on his motorcycle. However, his morning routine has been disrupted since his win, as he has been busy responding to the warm welcomes and congratulatory messages from friends, family members, party workers and supporters.

Dean has six daughters and a son. His eldest daughter recently graduated from the University of Karachi while his youngest son is studying in sixth grade at St Patrick's High School.

Dean's family is no different than other families of similar socio-economic classes. “Earlier, my wife used to ask how we would marry off our daughters,” Dean said, adding that “now, I will be getting a good salary and through sufficient savings I'll manage to get my daughters married within a year or two”.



Born in Ladyei village, Sialkot district in Punjab, December, 1956, he spent his entire life in Karachi and entered politics by joining the National Students Federation during his college days. Later, Dean joined the PPP in the early 1970s after he was impressed by the charisma and socialist ideology of the country's first elected prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

### **Minority affairs: Human rights protection a 'priority'**

He gradually climbed the ladder in the party and eventually served as a divisional president of the PPP's minority wing. He also served as special assistant to former chief minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah.

"I'm thankful to my leadership for nominating a poor party worker like me for the Senate," Dean told *The Express Tribune* in high spirits. He added that he was hopeful that the PPP would award him a Senate ticket as it was the only party in the country's history that had and was even capable of taking such unprecedented steps.

To contest the Senate elections, he was interviewed by the selection board headed by PPP Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. "I think my ideology and credentials weighed more than my financial status and, hence, I was approved by my party leadership to be nominated as a senator on the minority seat," Dean said.

"I can't say whether I could have been elected to the Senate had I been in any political party other than the PPP."

Dean has resolved that he will not distance himself from the common people, especially the poor and non-Muslims. He wants to be their voice in the upper house. "I'll perform my duties with the consideration that I am accountable to my God, my country and my party," he said, adding that he would give his 100% during his term as senator.

Commending the PPP for having minorities' representatives elected in the Senate, Sikh rights activist Sardar Ramesh Singh Khalsa said the victory of poor party workers like Krishna Kolhi and Dean in the Senate elections revived the faith of non-Muslims in the system. The PPP is the only party in which non-Muslim citizens of this country have hopes for their rights, representation and inclusion in the mainstream, he added.

(By Mudaser Kazi The Express Tribune, 05, 10/03/2018)

## **Sindh govt imposes ban on polythene bags across province**

The Sindh government on Wednesday imposed a complete ban on manufacture, sale and purchase of non-biodegradable polythene bags (plastic bags) across the province.

The ban was imposed under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code by the Sindh home department with immediate effect and until further orders.

"In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 144 (I) CrPC, the Government of Sindh, do hereby impose a complete ban on manufacture/sale/purchase of non-biodegradable polythene bags/plastic products in the territorial jurisdiction of the province of Sindh with immediate effect till further orders," reads a notification.

It said the Sindh government was satisfied that it was necessary to take 'immediate measures' to avoid environmental pollution (land and water), choking of drains, and the risks to the health of citizens associated with the use of non-biodegradable polythene bags, or plastic products, as the carriers for food or drinkable substances, or for carriage of other materials in contravention of the Sindh Prohibition of Non-degradable Plastic Products (Manufacturing, Sale and Usage) Rules 2014 and Sindh Environmental Protection Act (Sepa) 2014.

The home department asked the officer authorised under the Sindh Prohibition of Non-degradable Plastic Products (Manufacturing, Sale and Usage) Rules 2014 to initiate strict legal action under the said rules; and, in addition to Sepa against the violators of that order.

Besides, the notification said, in pursuance of Section 195(i)(a) of the CrPC the SHO of the police station concerned was authorised to register complaints regarding the issue under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code against the violators of the government order.  
(By Hasan Mansoor Dawn 17, 22/03/2018)

### **Sindh Assembly asks SC to take suo motu notice of 'man-made disaster' in deltaic area**

The Sindh Assembly on Monday unanimously adopted a resolution in which the house "expressed the hope" that the Supreme Court would take cognisance of the "man-made disaster" which the southernmost areas of Sindh were facing owing to the absence of sufficient outflows from the Indus River to the sea.

This was the first time, as mentioned by the opposition leader in the Sindh Assembly, that the provincial legislature was asking the Supreme Court to take suo motu notice of an issue instead of involving the federal authorities or other forums of discussion.

The resolution was tabled out of turn by the senior minister for food and parliamentary affairs, Nisar Khuhro, on the opening day of what is likely to be the second-last session of the assembly's five-year mandate, which began after a 50-minute delay with Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani in the chair.

Mr Khuhro sought the chair's approval on the conclusion of the day's business to table the resolution, which, as he put it, was a matter of life and death for millions of people living in the districts forming the delta of the Indus.

The resolution read: "The house expresses its grave concern on the failure and apathy of Irsa (Indus River System Authority) to check continuing and accelerating erosion of (the) most fertile coastal land of Indus Delta by the sea. In the absence of sufficient outflows to the sea, already an estimated 2.4 million acres of Sindh's coastal land has gone under the sea. The coming rough conditions of the sea during the next six months are expected to devour thousands of acres more of our precious land."

*'Thatta and Badin will be history by 2040 if sea erosion continues'*

The resolution further said that under the Inter-Provincial Water Accord of 1991, Irsa was bound to ensure the outflow to the sea of sufficient quantities of water to check sea erosion.

"In the post-Tarbela period, Indus Delta has suffered on a large scale due to the shortage of fresh water outflowing into the sea. For the last 25 years, Irsa has failed even to determine the quantity of outflow of freshwater that would check sea erosion. It sadly continues to ignore the problem while crops, orchards and coastal villages are rapidly going under the sea and millions of those whose forefathers had been living in this most fertile area for centuries have been forced to migrate," said the resolution.

"The house is of the opinion that this disaster is entirely man-made and has been caused by the sheer negligence and apathy of federal institutions. The land that has gone under the sea is the land of Pakistan. The people living in the coastal areas of Sindh are citizens of Pakistan. Basic human rights of these millions of Pakistanis are being continuously violated."

The resolution expressed the hope that the SC would take "due notice of this man-made disaster and summon Irsa and other connected federal authorities to explain their gross negligence".

It said the house expected the SC would direct the federation of Pakistan to take steps and actions similar to those that had been taken in other countries to protect river deltas and the people living in deltaic regions.

### **Industrial effluent from Punjab**

Mr Khuhro, through the resolution, drew the attention of the Commission of the Supreme Court on Water Quality in Sindh towards the “constant menace of discharge of industrial effluent from Punjab into Sindh”.

“It was essential that these industrial effluents should be scientifically treated before their release in water channels and the house expects the commission to take up the matter with the government of Punjab, since all previous pleas from Sindh in this regard have fallen on deaf ears.”

Mr Khuhro said the federal authorities’ misconception that allowing water going downstream Kotri was wasting water was hugely flawed as that quantity of water saved lives, land and nature at large.

Opposition leader Khawaja Izharul Hasan said it was the first time the assembly was requesting the SC to take cognisance of the water issue. He said the PPP government in Sindh should also tell the public what was their own success story in trying to rein in Irsa during their tenure in Islamabad. He said the chief minister, also a member of the Council of Common Interests, should inform the public about his own contribution vis-a-vis the water issue during the CCI meetings.

He said the provincial government should play its own part in improving safe drinking water supply to its people.

### **Muttahida’s proposal**

Syed Sardar Ahmed said instead of a vague slapdash resolution like that the house should discuss the whole issue threadbare, design recommendations and put them before the apex court.

Culture Minister Sardar Shah referred to a recent report by the Institute of Oceanography and other institutions which feared greater losses of land, fauna and flora because of sea erosion in future if the delta was deprived of sufficient water outflows.

“It said Thatta and Badin will be history by 2040 if sea erosion continues and by 2050 Karachi will itself be history,” he said, adding that sea erosion was devouring 80 acres of land daily.

PTI’s Khurram Sher Zaman said instead of waiting for the SC’s notice on the issue all the political parties should unite and raise the issue.

Sikandar Shoro, Imdad Pitafi, Ghulam Qadir Chandio and Abdul Bari Pitafi also supported the resolution.

Earlier, a statement by Nadeem Razi, an MQM lawmaker who has defected to the PSP, created stir in the house and upon insistence of the chair and Mr Khuhro’s warning that a censure motion could be moved against him, he withdrew his words. He was angry over former colleague Mehfooz Yar Khan’s request to the chair by saying: “There are strangers in the house who should be expelled.”

Mr Razi in his comment said there were certain individuals in the house who were ‘zehni beemar’ (psychos).

Nusrat Sahar Abbasi withdrew her adjournment motion after Irum Khalid, special assistant to the CM on women development, assured her that the issue relating to “sexual harassment of a female student by a professor at the University of Karachi” was being investigated by a committee in the department of the university.

The Sindh Holy Quran (Printing, Recording and Disposal of Damaged or Shaheed and Sacred Araqs) Bill, 2018 was introduced in the house.

(By Hasan Mansoor Dawn, 17, 10/04/2018)

## Are you ready to become a welfare state?



President Abraham Lincoln defined democracy in these words: “It is the government of the people, for the people, by the people.” A welfare state is a state where the government plays a key role in the protection and promotion of the social and economic wellbeing of its citizens. It is based on the principles of equality of opportunity, equitable distribution of wealth and public responsibility for those unable to avail themselves of minimal provisions for a good life.

A state in which the welfare of the people in such matters as social security, health and education, housing and working conditions is the responsibility of the government. The services that the welfare state provides include education, housing, sustenance, health services, unemployment insurance, days off for sickness or injuries, additional income in special circumstances and equivalent wages through wage controls. Other services include public transportation, child care, social public goods like public parks and libraries, swimming pools and other such goods and services.

Some of the services provided could be funded by government insurance programmes or taxes collected by the government. A good example of a true welfare state is the Netherlands, as it is doing really well on all its economic indicators. Their health benefits provided to their citizens and social security system is exemplary. To support people on a low income, the Dutch government offers a healthcare allowance, a regular contribution to help cover the monthly premiums for Dutch health insurance and this is compulsory for everyone. The Netherlands’ social security system covers four areas: the pension system, child benefits, survivor benefits and long-term care. Then there is the employment social security, where social security payments for employee insurance — required for all employed persons are automatically deducted from their income by their employer. This includes unemployment benefits, sick leave and disability benefits. Another help to its citizens is their family benefits and child allowance. In this each family with at least one child under the age of 18, including adopted and step-children, can receive child allowance.

If we compare this to our country, our federal government, as well as provincial governments, allot a meagre amount of their budgets for health, education and other basic necessities. Our national debt has increased manifold, causing a high rate of inflation. It becomes more and more difficult for people to arrange for their basic necessities due to high inflation. Building motorways and expressways is good but not at the cost of basic necessities.

To realise the vision of a ‘welfare state’ for Pakistan’s poor, the government needs to go further. At present, only 30 per cent of children in the poorest families go to school. The government needs to roll out its plan to provide each family with an additional Rs200 a child every month if their children have an 80 per cent attendance record at school. Nearly half of all under the age of five in Pakistan are chronically undernourished. This stunts mental and physical development, lowers IQ and achievement at school, and reduces earnings in adulthood.

These children are half the future workforce of Pakistan. So why not design a scheme to provide them with essential food and nutrients so that they have a productive future? Instead of wasting money and time on designing new targeting mechanisms for every anti-poverty programme, the government and donors need to use the same poverty scorecard for all interventions.

International evidence shows women receiving cash grants invest in their families, keep their children in school, feed them better and buy medicine and healthcare. Over time, this future earning potential helps to break the cycle of poverty from generation to generation. In Brazil, the anti-poverty scheme Bolsa Familia helped reduce poverty by a remarkable 28 per cent during the first term of President Lula da Silva’s administration and helped reduce inequality by 20 per cent since 2001. About 12 million Brazilian families receive funds from Bolsa Familia, which has been described as “the largest programme of its kind in the world.”

Can Pakistan afford to follow something similar? I would acknowledge the K-P government for taking an initiative of providing health insurance cards in the province. With more than half of the K-P population having 2.4 million health insurance cards, medical treatment has become affordable for the common man. But we need much more. As per my rough calculation, if similar health insurance cards are distributed among our entire population of 200 million, Rs50- 60 billion will be needed from our budget and as a result health conditions of our entire population will benefit. Another solution is to cater to the big menace of the unemployed who are suffering. If the government provides social security benefits to all degree holders who are unemployed, as a result the unemployed would at least be able to survive in this era of high inflation. All the above can easily be funded by taxes that we pay to the government.

The need of the hour is a proper taxation system. Currently, only 1% of our population is paying tax, which is alarming. If we widen the tax net, properly document everything and apply strict checks by ensuring a foolproof tax system, we can easily increase our tax collection figure from Rs4 trillion to Rs40 trillion or even more. Nothing can stop Pakistan from becoming a true welfare state. What is required is the will to do so. The only question is: can Pakistan afford not to invest in its people at this stage?

(By Sarah Ahmed The Express Tribune, 17, 12/04/2018)

### **100 officers will be fired if you fail to work: judicial commission**

The judicial commission on water and sanitation came down hard on the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) on Monday for its failure to supply water to many areas of the city.

The commission also directed the authorities to submit reports on pumping stations in Karachi and actions on complaints registered in Tanvir Colony, Orangi Town and other areas.

Justice (ret'd) Amir Hani Muslim, the commission's head, said he had been frequently receiving complaints in which complainants wondered how authorities would defend themselves when God held them accountable for not performing their duties. The commission's head warned that if inaction on the part of the authorities continued, he would fire at least 100 officers before his term ended.

The commission expressed its displeasure on the ongoing water crisis in Karachi. People are in serious discomfort due to the non-availability of water, the commission remarked. The commission head asked the KWSB why there was no water in the city.

#### **Judicial commission seeks list of environment-polluting industries**

Justice (ret'd) Muslim was informed that the KWSB managing director (MD) could not attend the hearing as he was busy. If the MD was busy, why did the other officers of the water board not come to the hearing? the commission head questioned, expressing his displeasure. Later, the KWSB MD came to the court and responded to the commission's queries.

The commission also made observations on the issue of non-payment to the Chinese company responsible for collecting litter in the city. The commission was informed that the Chinese company's bills for the months of January and February were still outstanding. The commission remarked that it had not asked to suspend payments to the company. It had directed that payments to the company be stopped in the future if it violated its contract.

The commission was informed that litter was strewn across the city due to the shortage of staff. The commission directed the authorities to withhold the salaries of employees who were not performing their duties. The local government secretary informed the commission said that an inter-departmental investigation would be conducted after which the employees who were not coming to work would be fired.

During an exchange with the Chinese company's lawyer, the commission said the company had been operating without a designated quota of 1,000 employees for a full year. According to the contract, the company had to pay the wages of 1,000 employees, the commission observed.

Overflowing sewage is mixing with drinking water, the commission remarked. To a query, the commission was informed that 700 valve men were working in the city. Justice (retired) Muslim asked whether the water board had taken action against even a single valve man for not performing his duties.

### **Bilawal wants judicial activism scaled down**

A citizen told the commission that valve men in Baldia Town were private employees, Justice (retired) Muslim said. The commission asked if the water board has started handing pumping stations over to private parties on contractual basis. It ordered the KWSB MD to resolve complaints in Orangi Town, Buffer Zone and other areas of the city.

A lawyer contended that water was also not being supplied to Clifton Block 2, to which the commission replied that the residents of Clifton could afford water tankers, however, those living Orangi Town could not.

The KWSB MD admitted that there was no water in Clifton Block 2. Justice (retired) Muslim observed that it was the responsibility of the water board to supply water free of charge in areas where it was not available. He asked whether those people who were paying water tax needed to pay for water tankers.

Barrister Salahuddin argued that as many as 840 people lost their jobs when the Sunday market near the Malir River was forcibly closed. The commission replied that the market was banned due to the theft of gravel and sand, and encroachments. If permission is given to open markets on the banks of the Malir River and Gujjar stream, land grabbing will start, the commission said.

### **Judicial commission seeks report from ACE on pending corruption inquiries**

Justice (retired) Muslim asked the authorities about the progress in cleaning of the canals. He directed the local government secretary to coordinate with the mayor to resolve issues being faced by the latter. The commission also directed the chief secretary to resolve the issues between the Karachi Development Authority director-general and chief engineer.

(By Our Correspondent The Express Tribune, 04, 17/04/2018)

## **Karachi mayor asks government to resolve power crisis immediately**

Elected local bodies representatives, led by Mayor Wasim Akhtar finally took to the streets to protest against the prevailing power cuts in the city outside the K-Electric (K-E) head office in the Sunset Boulevard area on Tuesday.



Akhtar reached the K-E office, along with elected local government representatives at around 11am. He was flanked by District Municipal Corporation (DMC) Korangi Chairperson Nayyar Raza and DMC East Chairperson Moeed Anwar at a stage placed just outside the K-E office. The road was closed for traffic.

Protesters were held placards with slogans of 'Let Karachi Live', 'Businesses crippled due to load-shedding' and 'K-E needs to mend its ways.'

Almost two years after taking over as the mayor, Akhtar protested against one of the gravest issues of the people of Karachi – power cuts – which on the face of it looks like a bid to strengthen his vote bank.

The archrivals of Akhtar's Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) – Pakistan, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi have been regularly campaigning against the increased tariff, overbilling and fuel adjustment charges by K-E for the past one year.

### **SSGC, K-Electric trade blows but consumers get hurt**

There is up to seven hours of announced load-shedding in addition to several hours of unannounced load-shedding in different parts of the city. The Karachi Water and Sewage Board (KWSB) is mainly dependent on the K-E for continuation of water supply, due to which, the citizens are also deprived of water.

The worst affected areas are Lyari, Saddar, Bizerta Lines, Kala Pul, Malir, Shah Faisal and Landhi, North Karachi, Nazimabad, North Nazimabad, Gulistan-e-Jauhar and Gulshan-e-Iqbal.

Addressing the protesters, Akhtar said that they are the third tier of the government and almost all the elected representatives of the local government were with them.

### **Power supply takes a hit due to reduced gas**

#### **Karachi swelters as K-Electric, SSGC trade blame**

On the other hand, SSGC, on several occasions, has refuted K-E's argument by saying that it has been supplying only 90 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of gas these days compared to 190mmcf in the recent past. The reduction in gas supply from the state-owned utility firm is partly seen due to pending dues worth billions of rupees on the K-E.

### **JI reacts**

Reacting to Akhtar's protest, JI's spokesperson, Zahid Askari, said that last year they held several protests against the K-E's injustice to the people of Karachi. "We even blocked Sharae Faisal and our central leadership was arrested," he said, questioning why the mayor had initiated his protest now. The MQM was in power when the K-E was privatised, he said.

(By Oonib Azam The Express Tribune, 05, 18/04/2018)

## **NAB recovers Rs31.5m, valuables from LG official**

National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Karachi on Thursday claimed to have recovered huge amount of cash and valuables from the custody of a personal secretary to the secretary of local government. The suspect was arrested from his office on Wednesday, said a NAB spokesperson.



On a lead of the accused, Ramzan Solangi, who was remanded in NAB custody on Thursday, a search operation was conducted at his residence in the Garden area, where he had confessed to having kept ill-gotten assets.

During the search operation, a NAB Karachi team recovered over Rs31.5m, including foreign currency, prize bonds worth Rs1,843,000, 100 tolas gold, gold ornaments, precious watches and other assets with certain documents, added the official.

During initial probe, it transpired that the suspect had been collecting millions of rupees as monthly bribes from various departmental heads.

Furthermore, the accused, Mr Solangi, has been running a gang of such individuals who are actively involved in working for influential persons for misappropriating funds of the local government department and their distribution.

Information gleaned from the suspect is likely to lead to the recovery of more valuables and arrests, said a NAB press release.

### **Suspect remanded in NAB custody**

An accountability court on Thursday remanded Mr Solangi in custody of the National Accountability Bureau in the alleged graft case.

He was arrested on information provided by another suspect, Javed Qamar, the alleged frontman of a former district administrator.

The investigating officer produced the suspect before the administrative judge of the accountability courts and informed him that he collected monthly bribes from the district municipal councils, union councils and various local government entities. The IO asked for physical remand of the suspect to complete investigation.

Remanding him in NAB custody for one day, the court directed the IO to produce the suspect on next date of hearing with a report on progress in investigation.  
(By Dawn Report 17, 20/04/2018)

### **Sindh govt granting land to Dawat-i-Islami for varsity**

The Sindh government has principally 'accepted' the request from Dawat-i-Islami, which calls itself a peaceful movement for preaching the Quran and Sunnah, to grant it 150 acres of land in Karachi to establish a university of international standards, said an official on Wednesday.

The decision came four months after Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari visited the centre of the organisation in Karachi, Faizan-i-Madina.

In the meeting leaders of Dawat-i-Islami presented their case and sought his favour for a piece of land.

In a recent communiqué from Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah with the subject "allotment of 150-acre amenity land to Dawat-i-Islami Trust for its project Dar-ul-Madinah International University as announced by Mr Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Chairman PPP", the Board of Revenue had been asked to "examine" the request and put it up "early".

"The Sindh government has agreed to extend its favour to Dawat-i-Islami. The directive from the Sindh chief minister to the Board of Revenue is a beginning of a process which takes some time. The area along the Superhighway has been identified for this purpose," the official added.  
(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 18, 03/05/2018)

### **Centre depriving Sindh of its due share in funds, claims CM**

Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah alleged that the federal government has cut its funds and abnormally delayed the transfer of Sindh's share in the federal divisible pool, which has hindered development works in Sindh.



During the post-budget briefing at the Sindh Assembly's auditorium on Friday, the CM said, "Sindh is being deprived of its due rights and share."

Speaking about the funds that have not been released, the CM said, "In the current fiscal year, the federal government was supposed to give us Rs493 billion, but it later revised the amount to Rs480 billion, of which only Rs449 billion was released. This means they slashed around Rs21.5 billion from the estimated amount," Shah said.

He called the Sindh budget a 'model budget' that will provide relief to the poor. Referring to his meetings with former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, the CM said, "I raised genuine issues with him a number of times and demanded provincial autonomy as per the 18th Amendment, but he was reluctant and did not respond properly."

### **With no new taxes, Sindh does not introduce finance bill**

He said that the provincial government has presented a budget of around Rs1.4 trillion with a development portfolio of Rs343 billion, which is the highest in the province's history. Shah said that the total allocation for the road sector was Rs27 billion and major schemes have been finished and many



others are in the pipeline. Referring to the Karachi-Thatta dual carriageway, he said that it was a 49 kilometre-long project that was completed at an estimated cost of Rs8.85 billion. The project was completed on a build, finance, operate and transfer basis and inaugurated on March 29.

The Kandhkot-Ghotki bridge on the Indus River is an approximately Rs10 billion project. A detailed feasibility study for the bridge was initiated. This landmark project will immensely benefit commuters and cargo movement between the provinces of Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab by reducing distance and saving time and fuel.

Shah said that the M9-N5 link road is a 22km-long project connecting the Superhighway and National Highway. It has been planned to manage traffic on the highways. "With this, the congestion of traffic in Malir, Bin Qasim and Landhi will be reduced," he said, adding that the Sir Aga Khan Jhirk-Mulla Katiar Bridge project, at an estimated cost of Rs4.5 billion, has also been completed and the bridge is now operational.

### **Allocations for health sector development projects cut by Rs3b**

He said that Sanghar, Tando Adam, Nawabshah and Naushero Feroz are among other areas where the government has laid down a network of roads.

The CM said his government has presented the entire year's budget, but will request the Sindh Assembly to authorise expenditure for only three months – from July to September. "Let the next government initiate the new schemes and pass the budget for the rest of its tenure," he said.

Regarding the shortage of water in Sindh, the CM said that there is around 55% reduction of water in Sindh, which has created problems for farmers. "The federal government assured implementation of the National Water Commission Accord providing due share to Sindh, but nothing has been done," he said.

### **Out with the new, in with the old**

He lauded the services rendered by the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), claiming that it is the biggest centre for the treatment of heart-related issue. "It is providing timely and accessible cardiac services to the people of Sindh at their doorsteps free of charge," he praised, adding that the government, with the help of the NICVD, has established satellite centres at Tando Muhammad Khan, Larkana, Hyderabad and Sehwan. These modern and well equipped cardiac facilities are providing free of charge emergency care 24/7 by internationally and locally trained cardiac specialists, paramedic staff and technicians, Shah explained.

Three more NICVD centres will be made functional in Nawabshah, Khairpur and Mithi this year. The grant for NICVD has, therefore, been increased from Rs5.77 billion to Rs8.09 billion in the next financial year.

Criticising the Rs25 billion federal-funded package, he said, "It had earlier announced Rs25 billion, but the governor, while addressing a press conference, only briefed about Rs7 billion for Karachi." The federal government has not kept funds in its public sector development programme for Karachi, he said.

Regarding the judicial commission on water, the CM said that the commission has visited various areas of Sindh and in light of its recommendations, the Sindh government has kept around Rs37 billion for water and sanitation schemes in the province.

### **Rs100.48b allocated for maintaining the peace of the province**

Regarding the tenure of the Sindh Assembly, the CM said "The incumbent assembly is going to end its tenure on May 28 and after a two-month caretaker government, elections will be held."

He went on to comment that all political parties in the country have weakened, but the Pakistan Peoples Party has emerged as a massive force in last five years and will rule the country in the coming days.

(By Our Correspondent The Express Tribune, 04, 12/05/2018)

## **Political parties' suggestions sought in finalising poll security plan in Sindh**

Police authorities have sought input of political parties before finalising a draft code of conduct for security during the July 25 general elections to make the plan more effective with parties' guarantee for its implementation, officials have said.

They said the proposal came during a recent meeting chaired by Sindh Home Minister Sohail Anwar Siyal with senior police and district administration officials. The meeting was called to discuss the proposal to finalise the draft of code of conduct for the next elections.

"The Sindh police in general and Karachi police in particular have suggested the provincial government to finalise the draft after input from the political parties as well," said an official privy to the details of the meeting. "It was suggested that the home department should forward this request to the provincial election commission to seek proposals and suggestion at least from 16 political parties which have representation in the assemblies."

He said the suggestion was made to make the code of conduct more effective and consensual for its easier implementation.

Otherwise, he said, it had been witnessed in the past that the parties had always raised questions over the code of conduct after it was made public.

### *Police seek input from 16 parties in parliament on a draft code of conduct*

When reminded that in the past the Election Commission of Pakistan had prepared the code of conduct after consultations with political parties, he said the police had found it hard to convince the parties over such rules.

"The police want parties to be a part of discussion with law enforcement agencies and district administration, which are always on ground during election campaigns and on the polling day.

Unfortunately, the parties submit their proposals to the election commission but never become part of the discussion for its finalisation. Once they are made part of the process and their inputs are taken into consideration, they would not have any excuse to disagree with the draft," he said.

Violation of code of conduct for the elections is not a new phenomenon.

In 2013, the Free and Fair Election Network (Fafen) had claimed that political parties violated the code of conduct for general elections announced by the ECP. According to Constituency Long-Term Observers of Fafen, 58 rallies across the country had been noticed in violation of the code of conduct. Of the 58 rallies, 27 were held in 13 constituencies of Sindh, 21 in eight constituencies of Punjab, eight in four Khyber Pakhtunkhwa constituencies and two in as many constituencies of Balochistan.

"We have history of violence during electioneering. For Karachi and other urban areas of Sindh, it's important to bring all political parties on one page when it come to the code of conduct for security and other arrangements for general elections," added the official.

### **Electoral training**

A total of 169 returning officers (ROs), district election commissioners (DECs) and regional election commissioners (RECs) have received electoral training in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur, adds APP.

An ECP spokesman said on Sunday that 23 ROs and DECs would participate in the last phase of the training session at Hyderabad from May 29 to May 31.

The ECP organised three-day phase-wise electoral training sessions in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkar in connection with the general elections.

Speaking at the concluding session in Karachi, Sindh Election Commissioner Muhammad Yousaf Khan Khattak said that the ROs had been given a huge and important responsibility and “we hope that they will fulfil the responsibilities effectively and ensure strict implementation of the election code of conduct”.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn, 17, 28/05/2018)

### **Judicial commission unsatisfied by undertaking submitted on defence secretary's behalf**

The Supreme Court-mandated judicial commission on water and sanitation has summoned the federal defence secretary or his nominee after an undertaking submitted on the secretary's behalf failed to satisfy the commission.



An additional attorney-general, Salman Talibuddin, submitted on Monday the undertaking, outlining measures to end pollution on the Sea View beach and supply drinking water to the residents of Defence Housing Authority (DHA) in Karachi.

“This commission is of the view that in the absence of [the] secretary defence or any of his nominee, the issues of sewerage and water distribution cannot be resolved,” observed the commission's head, Justice (retd) Amir Hani Muslim. The secretary was directed to either appear himself on June 4 or send his nominee who should not be below the rank of joint secretary.

The commission had earlier taken notice of the discharge of untreated sewage from different locations through Sea View and its consequences on the health, environment and marine life. On May 15, Justice (retd) Muslim had summoned the defence secretary and later directed the official to submit an undertaking.

### **Judicial commission comes down hard on KWSB**

During Monday's proceedings, the commission was informed by Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) Managing Director Khalid Mehmood Shaikh that it was difficult for the KWSB to supply water to various cantonments. He opined that intervention of the defence ministry was required.

The judicial commission barred the DHA from allowing private restaurants along the beach to continue releasing sewage into the sea. “... not a single drop of untreated sewage shall be drained into the Sea View [beach].”

The restaurants were directed to transport the sewage to the treatment plant located in DHA Phase VIII. “This shall start immediately and in case any restaurant fails to do so, that shall be restrained from functioning forthwith,” the commission decreed.

In the meantime, the DHA was asked to connect sewerage lines of those restaurants with the sewerage infrastructure of DHA Phase VI. The authority was directed to complete this work within two months and submit a compliance report.

### **DHA told to set up treatment plants by December K-IV Project**

The commission also heard Planning and Development Board Chairperson Mohammad Waseem and K-IV Project Director Asad Zamin. Justice (retd) Muslim directed them to submit separate PCs for the project's components that were missing in the PC-1 of the K-IV project.

Zamin informed the commission that PC-1 of ancillary services and missing components would be prepared by the end of next week and then submitted to the local government department. The project

is meant to supply additional 260 million gallons of water per day from the Indus River to Karachi. It is being executed by the Frontier Works Organisation under a joint funding by the federal and Sindh governments.

Separately, the commission directed the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) director-general (DG) to release the sum of money collected under the head of betterment charges to the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and KWSB. Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar informed the commission that the building control authority had still not released the betterment charges to the corporation. The SBCA DG was ordered to appear before the commission on May 29 along with the cheques.

### **Judicial commission seeks report from ACE on pending corruption inquiries**

The KMC and KWSB were directed to utilise the betterment charges for supply of clean drinking water, sanitation and firefighting.

(By Z Ali The Express Tribune, 04, 29/05/2018)

### **Lyari General Hospital gets a chest pain unit**

The National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), in collaboration with the Sindh government, established its seventh chest pain unit (CPU) in Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Institute of Cardiology at the Sindh Government Lyari General and Teaching Hospital, Karachi to facilitate patients with chest pain with easy access and free of charge services.



Health Secretary Dr Fazlullah Pechuho inaugurated the chest pain unit. He said that the unit will further improve the facilities available at the Lyari General Hospital to patients with critical heart conditions or chest pain.

An emergency ward, consultancy clinic and facility of echo-cardiography are available for patients at the unit.

Arrangements for vaccination in child emergency wards have also been made in this hospital, the health secretary said, adding that if parents get children vaccinated on time, they will remain safe from illnesses.

### **Follow your heart to NICVD's Chest Pain Units**

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, NICVD Executive Director Prof Nadeem Qamar stated that NICVD has proudly started operation of one more CPU now at the Lyari General Hospital to provide state-of-the-art cardiac treatment to the people of Lyari and its peripheries.

Sharing statistics, Qamar said that since the establishment of NICVD's first CPU facility in May last year till May 16 this year, 50,538 people have visited the CPUs, among whom 23,138 were cardiac patients. As many as 2,681 patients were diagnosed to have suffered a heart attack, which was managed successfully, he said.

Qamar said the rush at Karachi's hospitals has increased and more hospitals should be established. "We need to open more of such units in the next three to four years," he said.

He said that these units are designed to provide quality emergency care to heart attack patients and teams of all these units are diligently working to save lives round the clock.

He added that facilities of interventional cardiology, critical care and adult and paediatric cardiology will be available soon at this Lyari outreach unit.

### **NICVD opens satellite centre in Mithi**

He announced that in future more CPU will be established at different localities across Sindh.

NICVD is committed to providing free of charge and state-of-the-art cardiac treatment to the people of Sindh at their doorstep, he said, thanking the provincial government for providing endless support.

The NICVD had introduced a new era of heart healthcare with the launch of its first chest pain unit almost a year back. Till date, NICVD's chest pain units under flyovers at the Gulshan Chowrangi, Gulbai Flyover, Malir Halt, Qayyomabad Chowrangi and Nagan Chowrangi, and at a clinic near II Chundrigar Road have been serving people successfully and treating hundreds of patients on a daily basis.

This service is one-of-its-kind and is available 24/7 throughout the year.

Each unit is well-equipped and has the appropriate diagnostic testing facility to identify patients having a heart attack. They are also equipped to resuscitate patients who become unstable.

The units are designed to provide preliminary emergency care to heart attack patients. After providing initial treatment, the patient is shifted immediately to the tertiary care setup at NICVD's catheterisation lab.

(By Our Correspondent The Express Tribune, 04, 29/05/2018)

## **Sindh forms commission to allow citizens access to information**

After a lapse of more than a year to the passage of the Sindh Transparency and Rights of Information Act by the provincial assembly — now dissolved— the Sindh government on Wednesday notified a three-member information commission to provide transparency and access to information to every citizen in matters of public importance. The right to information act is for “promoting transparency in the working of every public authority by setting out a practical regime for every citizen to secure access to information under the control of public authorities”.

A notification issued by the provincial information and archives ministry, the provincial government had established the Sindh Information Commission “with immediate effect”.

It said consequent upon establishment of the Sindh Information Commission(SIC), the Sindh government had appointed Shahid Gulzar Shaikh as the chief information commissioner. Besides, Gul Munir Shah and Sikandar Huliyo had been appointed commissioners.

The commission was to be established within four months from the commencement of the transparency act. However, it took more than 14 months to notify it.

### *Shahid Gulzar Shaikh appointed chief information commissioner*

Similarly, every public body is meant to designate an official with whom the request for information can be lodged. Those bodies who have not yet notified such officials its person in-charge would be deemed the designated official.

The chief information commissioner, as the law says: “shall be a retired senior government servant not below the rank of BPS-20”.

One of the two commissioners is a former district judge while the other is from the civil society “having experience of not less than 15 years in the field of mass communication, academia or right to information.

The commissioner is mandated to conduct an inquiry on a complaint and may direct a public body to disclose information to an applicant.

Besides, it would determine the public interest; resolve any inconsistencies in the application of the provisions of the law or the rules of regulations.

The commission would decide a complaint within 60 days of its receipt and pass ‘appropriate orders’ including recommending disciplinary proceedings against delinquent officials.

The commission “may exercise the powers of a civil court”.

It could summon and enforce attendance of persons, compel them to give oral or written evidence on oath and to produce documents or information; examine and inspect information; receive evidence on affidavits; requisition relevant information from any office; and issue summons for witness or documents.

While inquiring into a complaint, the commission or any person authorised by the commission may examine any information on spot.

The commission would facilitate the application of the provisions of this act and could issue directives to public bodies for preservation, management, publication, publicity and access to information; prescribe the procedure for accessing information from a public body; advise and provide support to the government to make necessary laws and procedures for implementation of the right to information; provide technical and other support to the public bodies for effective enforcement of right to information; conduct training of the designated officials; undertake mass awareness campaign to create awareness about the act, rules and regulations; establish an information web portal; compile a user handbook in Urdu and English containing such information in easily comprehensible form and manner, as may reasonably be required by an applicant; and compile guidelines for use by designated officials.

Besides, as the law said, the commission would prepare an annual report on the implementation of the provisions of the act during a financial year and submit it to the government.

Any complaints against the commission’s head or the commission itself will be addressed by an investigation committee formed by the speaker of the Sindh Assembly. According to the bill, any citizen can submit a written request and seek information from government or institutions.

After a request has been received, the relevant institutions will have to submit information within a period of 15 days to one month.

The bill also states the commission reserves the right to take action against any officer who fails to deliver the information sought.

Failure to deliver the required information can result in a penalty of Rs10,000. Besides, any person who destroys a record which at the time it was destroyed was the subject of an application for access to information could be punished for imprisonment which may extend to two years or would be fined for minimum Rs10,000 or with both.

(By Hasan Mansoor dawn, 18, 31/05/2018)

## **Governing Karachi**

The political climate in the country is heating up as we move closer to the general elections. The key actors have started outlining the issues that could give them maximum political mileage. Taking cue from those demanding a South Punjab province, the MQM has echoed a similar demand asking for southern Sindh to be made a separate province based on the grievances of this part of Sindh. The belligerent reaction from the ruling PPP is understandable given that acceding to such a demand would have dramatic implications for the party. The MQM has been trying to emphasise that its demand is based on administrative grounds. It will be interesting to analyse whether the demand for a separate province on administrative grounds makes sense or not.



Such demands for separate provinces, historically speaking, are aired by those belonging to outlying regions, which are far away from the core or the locus of power for resources and networks. A sense of deprivation is reinforced by state policies that widen the social and economic gap. At times, identity groups try to push their agenda by asserting that the preservation of their culture and language can only be done through a separate province.

The situation in the case of southern Sindh, however, is contrary to any such assertion. Economic and social indicators in this densely-populated area are quite robust and well ahead of the rest of the province. The south is already the seat of the provincial capital and enjoys proximity to all key government and state institutions. The culture and the language spoken here are under no threat. In fact, the cultural-markers of this area have diffused well into the landmass of Sindh, while at the same time there has been little effort from the other end to imbibe the Sindhi language. The demand for a separate province on administrative grounds also seems out of place. It is divisions and districts that are created on administrative grounds, while as a student of public policy, I believe that creation of provinces is essentially politically driven.

Let us now look at the chances of success of such a move. Creating a new province will require an amendment to the Constitution by a two-thirds vote. This will further need to be backed by a resolution by the provincial legislature concerned, also by a two-thirds majority. There is little chance that political forces backing such a move can muster such numbers in the foreseeable future. What is the way out, then?

The existing loathsome state of affairs in southern Sindh, and specifically in Karachi, where the delivery of basic services has come to naught cannot be tolerated any longer. Karachi needs an altogether different dispensation as conventional ploys cannot work anymore. This may require ingenuity without straying into constitutional improbabilities. There is a need now to come up with what I would call the 'Greater Cities Empowerment Order' through a piece of legislation to address several immediate concerns. Any city with a population exceeding 10 million should qualify for this statutory order, which means that it would be as relevant to Lahore as it would be to Karachi. Through this order, these cities and their elected elders will be vested with all those powers and responsibilities that impact the life of the common man.

It would be noteworthy to see what is available in Karachi's toolbox at this particular moment. The city has a metropolitan corporation where the existing law entrusts it with a vast array of powers and responsibilities. These powers range from land-use planning, site development, road engineering, building control, to water supply, sanitation, refuse and waste collection, and so on. The law also empowers the metropolitan corporation to manage professional medical colleges and tertiary hospitals.

However, this law also has a caveat. Section 72 of the Local Government Act stipulates that no corporation will undertake such functions as are assigned and performed by any agency under the law. This basically makes room for a backdoor ingress for the provincial government to preside over several municipal functions such as building control, water and sewerage control, and urban area development while leaving the mayor and his team high and dry.

What we now see are burgeoning parastatals like the Sindh Building Control Authority, and the water and sanitation board calling the shots. This takeover by the province is inconsistent with the preamble of the Local Government Act 2013. The preamble envisaged devolved decision-making by elected representatives through a participative mechanism for effective delivery of services. The empowerment order for mega cities that I'm proposing should override such caveats as cited above. The order should bring all such agencies under an elected mayor with there being close and constructive provincial oversight. The Karachi chapters of all such bodies should be delinked from the provincial set-up.

Coming to another critical area, the steady and assured flow of financial resources is a prerequisite for effective and meaningful governance of any mega city. The metropolitan corporation, during the next financial year, with a budget of Rs27 billion could set apart Rs7 billion for development works. Such an amount provides some space for development work, and will be additional to the formula-based fiscal transfers from the provincial divisible pool. It is time now to lay the basis of an affirmative action mechanism to meet Karachi's ever-growing development needs. In this regard, of all the provincial taxes, the sales tax in the services sector is the most robust assignment that sees exceptional growth.

It is pitched at Rs115 billion for the next financial year. Collected from port and terminal operations, banking, insurance, the stock exchange and some other key retail sectors, this residence-based tax is largely mopped up from Karachi.

It is time now to set apart at least 15 to 20 per cent of the sales tax as allocable to the city over and above its share from the divisible pool. This should be a tied transfer grant for creating capital assets through a rolling plan. This should take place in consultation with the provincial government. The whole arrangement may require legislative cover. This may only look like a modest start but it would certainly provide a positive direction to Karachi's development paradigm, and can also turn out to be a test for the city's leadership. Karachi's elders need to realise that they are on the same ladder which also threw up distinguished figures like Joko Widodo in Jakarta and Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul. They need to grab every opportunity at their disposal besides creating new ones for themselves in order to bring Karachi on the same plane as other major global metropolitan centres.

(By Tariq Mahmud The Express Tribune, 17, 02/06/2018)

### **Judicial commission summons owners of factories in Port Qasim Authority**

The Supreme Court (SC)-mandated Judicial Commission on Water and Sanitation has summoned owners of industries operating in the three zones of the Port Qasim Authority (PQA), which have been releasing untreated effluent into the sea.

The commission's head, Justice (retd) Amir Hani Muslim, visited on Wednesday the PQA to take stock of the situation after receiving several complaints about pollution in the area.

PQA Chairperson Asad Rafi Chandna informed the commission that three industrial zones – North West, East and South West – operated in the jurisdiction of the authority. He complained that both the authority and Sindh Environmental Protection Agency had time and again issued notices to the industries to install in-house effluent treatment plants but to no avail.

### **Judicial commission comes down hard on KWSB**

"... most of the industries discharge liquid waste and effluent untreated directly into the sea," he said. Chandna specifically mentioned the names of Orient Textile, Denim Textile and Aga Steel, stating that the authority imposed fines on these industries for releasing effluent into the sea. However, he added that despite the penalty, the factories did not install in-house treatment plants.

He apprised the commission that one of the conditions for allotment of plots for industries was the installation of a pre-treatment plant. The PQA chairperson admitted that most of the industries had failed to fulfil their obligations and were, thereby, contributing to sea pollution.

### **Judicial commission directs focal person to coordinate between agencies**

The commission's head issued notice to all the industries listed as the environmental violators and ordered their owners to appear in person on June 20. The notices will be served to them through the district's SSP.

(By Z Ali The Express Tribune, 04, 14/06/2018)

### **West becomes city's largest district with most national, provincial assembly seats**

District West has emerged as the largest of the sprawling metropolis' six districts, outnumbering district Central in terms of population and number of voters, and has witnessed increase in National Assembly (NA) and Sindh Assembly (SA) seats, it emerged on Tuesday.

The official facts and figures and fresh delimitations of the city show that with the population of four million, Karachi West is the largest of Karachi's six districts, outpacing the Central district, which had been the largest for the past several decades.



In light of the recent census figures and voter rolls, the city has added one NA and four provincial assembly seats to its previous total, which now stand at 21 and 44 respectively.

However, with the fresh delimitations, Karachi West turns out to be the sole beneficiary of the increase in the city, grabbing the entire increase as it has added an NA seat — from earlier four to five — and four more SA seats — from previous seven to 11.

#### *District West has witnessed arrival of many internal migrants*

Officials said Karachi West hosted population of around four million of which around 1.6m were eligible to vote in the July 25 elections.

The fresh delimitations have reduced the share of Karachi Central in the provincial assembly seats. It has four NA and eight SA seats — instead of previous 10.

Similarly, the city's commercial hub — Karachi South — has just two NA and five provincial assembly seats as one seat each from the two legislatures have been slashed.

Malir's previous tally of two NA seats has increased by one; while Karachi East has four and Korangi has three NA seats.

In Karachi Central, 65 per cent of its inhabitants are eligible to vote, which is the highest among all the districts of the country.

Similarly, 80pc of the inhabitants of one of its SA seats, PS-126, are eligible voters.

The districts of Korangi, East and Malir have seven, eight and five SA seats respectively.

Officials said the fresh electoral rolls and delimitations would be effective in the next local government elections, thus, most union committees would be formed in the West district. At present, most union committees exist in the Central district as per the census results of 1998.

Experts and officials said the phenomenal change in the ratio of population in the city's districts had direct relevance to the country's security and economic conditions.

"Most of the populations who have settled in Karachi West belong to the country's northwest who migrated here chiefly because of hard security conditions and economic [factors]," said an expert.

Similarly, he said, large chunks of population from southern parts of Punjab and parts of Balochistan, which neighboured the West district, too frequently migrated here for security reasons and better economic prospects.

In addition to this, people in Lyari too had internally migrated there when it was hugely infested with criminal gangs.

People from other parts of Sindh, mainly those who migrated because of 2010 floods and subsequent worsening economic conditions in the rural swathes have migrated and inhabited various parts of the metropolis including Karachi West.

"This election in Karachi is going to be hugely different than what we have seen in the past. Everyone should be ready for surprises," said a political observer.

(By Hasan Mansoor Dawn, 17, 20/06/2018)

## **SC halts renting of withdrawn luxury official vehicles to ex-ministers, officers**

The Supreme Court suspended on Wednesday operation of the provincial government's notification allowing renting out the government-owned luxury vehicles to former ministers and officers from whom they were withdrawn on an SC order.

A three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, passed this order while hearing a matter pertaining to the use of luxury official vehicles by the former ministers and officers beyond their entitlement, at the SC's Karachi Registry.

At the outset, Sindh Advocate General Barrister Zamir Ghumro filed a compliance report on behalf of the secretary for services, general administration and coordination department.

He said 149 luxury vehicles (Land Cruiser, Prado, Pajero, SUV, Fortuner etc) of the SGACD had been retrieved from the ex-cabinet members/government officers and had been parked in the department's transport pool for further disposal as per the apex court's orders.

ARTICLE CONTINUES AFTER AD

*Orders shifting of oil tankers from residential areas to Zulfikarabad terminal*

The CJP asked how those official vehicles would be used in the future.

The AG informed the court that the SGACD had notified guidelines/policy under which, with the permission of the department, the same vehicles would be allowed for field tours of the ministers, secretaries and officers subject to certain conditions.

He also produced an official notification which stated that for the field tours the drivers for such vehicles would be provided by the relevant administrative department/organisation, which would also bear the costs of the fuel, repairs or damages, accidents etc.

It further stated that after seeking prior permission such vehicles would be reserved for specific field tour only and could not be used for other purposes. It added that in case of any delay in returning the official vehicles beyond the specific period, a penalty of Rs25,000 per day would be charged from the administrative department or the organisation concerned.

This visibly irked the chief justice, who remarked that it meant that the provincial government had now even started renting out official vehicles. He further remarked that nothing in Sindh was being done correctly.

CJP Nisar noted that the provincial government's decision to start renting out the retrieved luxury official vehicles was based on mala fide intentions. "Under this notification, the ministers would keep these (official) vehicles under their use whole day," he remarked. "The ministers do not like vehicles less than a Pajero."

Suspending the operation of the notification providing the luxury official vehicles back to the ministers and offices on a rental basis, the chief justice clubbed the case with identical matters and set June 28 for a joint hearing at Islamabad.

### **Zulfikarabad oil tankers terminal**

The same SC bench ordered shifting of all the oil tankers from the residential areas to the new Oil Tankers Terminal built in Zulfikarabad.

Earlier, the mayor said that the oil tanker owners were not willing to shift their vehicles to the new terminal set up at Zulfikarabad, set up almost a year ago.

Contesting the mayor's statement, president of the All Pakistan Oil Tankers Owners' Association Yousuf Shahwani said they were willing to relocate their vehicles to the new terminal, but complained of a lack of necessary facilities there.

He further complained that of the 200 acres earmarked for the terminal only 130 were provided for the new parking facility.

CJP Nisar asked the mayor that why the work had not yet been completed; the mayor said that the work had been finished and the court could get the same fact verified through its Nazir (official).

The court asked Advocate Zia Awan to visit the new terminal with Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar and representatives of the All Pakistan Oil Tankers Owners' Association to inspect the availability of the

required facilities. Later, Mr Awan submitted his report, verifying the availability of all facilities, except the fire brigade vehicles and staff, a clinic, lights, a bank branch and a petrol station.

### **Action against senior police officers ordered**

While hearing a case regarding inaction against the senior police officers with patchy service records, the bench directed the federal government to take strict action against the eight senior police officers having patchy service records in compliance with the directives of the apex court and personally summoned the secretary for the establishment division to submit a compliance report in this regard on June 28.

During the hearing, an additional advocate general submitted a report regarding departmental proceedings against all the police officers and officials involved in criminal activities. However, inquiries against only eight officers were pending and the same would be completed as soon as possible, the law officer said.

CJP Nisar remarked that the Sindh government had completed inquiries against the police officers involved in illegal appointments and the court had appreciated it. However, he noted that the federal government had not filed any report regarding action against the senior officers in that regard.

The chief justice directed the federal government to take strict action against all such officers strictly in compliance with the SC's directives and in accordance with the law. He also summoned the establishment division secretary on June 28 with a compliance report.

(By Naeem Sahoutara Dawn, 17, 21/06/2018)

### **SC orders unloading of coal at Port Qasim instead of KPT**

The Supreme Court directed all the ships carrying imported coal not to unload at Karachi Port Trust (KPT) but at Port Qasim in six weeks at the same rate.

A three-judge bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar and comprising Justices Sajjad Ali Shah and Munib Akhtar in its order also directed the authorities concerned that open coal will not be stored anywhere in Karachi and can only be kept in warehouses.

The court further ruled that in case of transportation, proper blankets and moisture must be provided to the coal so that the dust should not cause pollution.

#### *Asks FIA to conduct probe into encroachment on amenity plot*

The bench was hearing a public interest application at the Supreme Court Karachi registry and the main grievance agitated in the plea was that unloading of coal ships and their storage at the KPT was causing coal dust, which was adding to the pollution of an already polluted city and becoming a health hazard for Karachiites.

After hearing KPT and Port Qasim Authority chairmen, importers and lawyers, the court observed that unloading of coal and its transportation from the KPT was undoubtedly a serious hazard to health.

The judges observed they were assured by the officials concerned that appropriate facilities for unloading coal at Port Qasim have been developed and it has the capacity to facilitate the ships for unloading cargo of 65,000 tons.

Obviously, the issue of serious pollution existed at the KPT and at its coal yard, which ultimately affected the entire city and it would stand resolved if the ships carrying coal directly discharged at Port Qasim, they added.

The court said that unloading of coal at Port Qasim will be made at the same rate which was being presently charged by Pakistan International Bulk Terminal.

FIA to submit report on encroachment

The SC on Friday ordered the director general of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to conduct a probe into illegal encroachment on an amenity plot and submit report within a month.

The chief justice also sought weekly progress report from the FIA and directed Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar to inspect the area in question and demolish the warehouses if found on the premises of amenity plot.

These directives came on a direct complaint seeking action against illegal encroachment on a public park in Al-Habib Cooperative Housing Society in KDA Scheme 33.

The three-judge bench was hearing a set of petitions and suo motu proceedings.

Over a dozen people including women turned up and informed the bench that the secretary, Athar Alam, along with other office-bearers of the society encroached upon the park, illegally converted it into residential plots in 2011 and sold them to the public.

They further contended that Athar Alam and others have also built warehouses on the amenity plot.

The administrator of the society submitted that the amenity plot was encroached upon and unlawfully converted into residential plots, adding that he approached the Anti-Corruption Establishment Sindh in 2016 to take action, but to no avail.

The chief justice directed the mayor to immediately inspect the area in question, demolish the warehouse if found built on amenity plot and submit the compliance report by Sunday.

Stay order against ban on heavy vehicles

The bench extended an interim stay order against the Sindh High Court's order of banning round-the-clock movement of heavy vehicles in Karachi for a month and directed the SHC to decide the review petition within the same period.

The lawyer for the trustees of Karachi port argued that the complete ban on heavy vehicles in the provincial metropolis was not only affecting the KPT but was also a violation of fundamental rights of transporters.

The SHC had imposed a complete ban on heavy vehicles in March last year.

However, the apex court through an interim order suspended the SHC order and allowed the movement of heavy traffic from 11pm to 6am. Later, a review petition was filed in the SHC.

Meanwhile, the Karachi mayor informed the bench that he submitted an application about non-payment of dues by the KPT to the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation. The court directed the KPT to decide the issue of dues within three months.

Encroachments in Sehwan

The court directed the Sehwan Development Authority (SDA) to launch a coordinated operation against land grabbers and retrieve the remaining state land within six weeks.

A law officer informed the bench that out of 640 acres, the SDA has so far retrieved 300 acres of state land and sought the help of Pakistan Rangers Sindh to recover the remaining land.

The chief justice asked the director general Rangers to extend required support to the SDA.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 17, 23/06/2018)

## Judicial commission comes down hard on Chinese companies

The Judicial Commission on Water and Sanitation expressed its dissatisfaction on Wednesday over the performance of the Chinese companies responsible for collecting waste from the city.



Directing the Chinese companies to ensure that they have the required machinery and number of employees to perform the job, the judicial commission also directed the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) to submit a detailed report in two weeks on the disposal of garbage in the city.

The commission's head, Justice (retd) Ameer Hani Muslim, observed that the companies' performance was very unsatisfactory.

If the Chinese companies are not acting according to the agreement, the agreement should be revoked, he remarked.

### **'Solid waste is a treasure, don't waste it'**

The SSWMB managing director informed the commission that the concerned Chinese company claimed that it would be installing the required machinery in District South. The judicial commission was also told that contracts with the companies were signed for a seven-year term, to which Justice (retd) Muslim replied that the city would turn into ruins in seven years.

The commission asked what benefits the Chinese companies were providing due to which agreements with them should be continued. It remarked that the companies had been only making two to four people stand with brooms and they had introduced no mechanism for sweeping.

Why the Chinese companies had not recruited the required number of employees, the commission inquired.

A lawyer representing a Chinese company informed the commission that the company had not been paid its dues for a few months. The payments were stopped on an order of the judicial commission after April, the lawyer said. Justice (retd) Muslim directed the authorities to issue payments to all concerned parties what they rightly deserved.

The commission head lamented that the waste disposal system in districts West and Malir was in a shambles and the ground reality was different than what was told to the commission.

### **Despite heaps of garbage across city, solid waste budget slashed**

The commission asked a Chinese company managing director (MD) how the company would perform its job when it did not have the required machinery and vehicles. If the company could not deliver on its own, it better had assigned the cleaning task to locals or Afghans who would perform the job against low payments.

The MD informed the commission that the company was in talks with World Bank (WB) for the funding of its project to generate power from waste as it is being done in China, to which Justice (retd) Muslim replied that if the company borrowed \$260 million from WB, it would greatly add to the debts of the country.

### **Gujjar Nullah visit**

Justice (retd) Muslim also visited Gujjar Nullah where he discovered that sewage was mixing with clean water. The commission head called the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board managing director on phone and directed him to look into the matter.

The commission head was briefed on behalf of the mayor about the drain. Justice (retd) Muslim was informed that despite judicial orders, the provincial authorities had still not issued any notification to

give the Gujjar Nullah under the administration of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation. The commission head expressed anger over the non-issuance of the notification.  
(By Arshad Baig THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 04, 28/06/2018)

### **Sindh govt asked to ensure citizens' right to free trial**

Civil society members and human rights activists on Wednesday demanded that the caretaker provincial government ensure provision of all fundamental rights, including right to free trial.

The demand was made by the rights activists during a meeting with caretaker Law Minister Jameel Yusuf. Noted architect Dr Noman Ahmed, singer Shahzad Roy, architect Shahid Abdullah, environmentalist Taufiq Pasha, Mahnaz Rahman of the Aurat Foundation, Naeem Qureshi, Zulfiqar Shah of Piler, Zahid Farooq of Urban Resource Centre and many others were present.

They asked the minister, who also holds the portfolio of environment department, to activate the provincial Treaty Implementation Cell (TIC), which has been established to ensure implementation of international conventions on human rights, labour rights and environmental protection, as Pakistan had to implement it under the European Union's generalised scheme of preferences (GSP).

Raising the issue of human rights violation of missing persons, they asked the caretaker minister to make rules of business of all the laws passed by the Sindh Assembly whose rules were not made yet.

Mr Yusuf told the delegation that adequate laws were available for protection of human rights, but these laws were not implemented.

He said that the caretaker government had a short period of time and he was trying to utilise this time to improve the working of his departments.

"In my own department, at least nine government vehicles are still being used by the former ministers and I have asked to issue orders to recover those vehicles and fare for the days they were being used," he said.

Regarding environmental protection, he asked civil society to provide workable suggestions.

He asked the civil society and media to contribute for protection of environment. Industries and the private sector have been asked to use their funds under their corporate social responsibility to protect environment.

He said that the provincial government was making efforts to provide jobs to persons with disabilities.

"We have asked the IBA [Institute of Business Administration] to ascertain qualification of the deserving persons with disabilities and issue them certificates so we will ask the private sector to employ those people," he said.

(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 18, 28/06/2018)