

NEWSCLIPPINGS

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LAW & ORDERS



Urban Resource Centre

A-2, 2nd floor, Westland Trade Centre, Block 7&8, C-5, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi.
Tel: 021-4559317, Fax: 021-4387692, Email: urc@cyber.net.pk, Website: www.urckarachi.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/URCKHI Twitter: https://twitter.com/urc_karachi

Sindh govt empowers home minister to transfer, post senior cops

For the first time, the Sindh government has shifted the power of transfer and postings of senior police officials to Sindh Home Minister Sohail Siyal.

“In pursuance of Rule-7 (ii) of the Sindh Government Rules of Business 1986 and with the approval of the chief minister Sindh, the transfer and postings of Superintendents of Police (BS-18), Senior Superintendents of Police (BS-19) and Deputy Inspector Generals (BS-20) and equivalent shall be issued by the Services, General Administration and Coordination Department with the approval of the Minister for Home Sindh,” read a notification issued by Sindh Chief Secretary Rizwan Memon on Thursday.

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“This department’s notification of even number dated 30.06.2017 whereby the transfer and postings of the SP and SSP and equivalent were to be issued by the Services, General Administration and Coordination Department with the approval of Chief Minister Sindh is hereby withdrawn,” it adds.

Recently, the Sindh government had withdrawn from Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP) AD Khawaja’s the power to transfer and post the SPs and SSPs in a move seen as a result of the ongoing tussle between the Sindh’s top cop and the PPP-led Sindh government.
(By Faraz Khan The Express Tribune 15, 09/07/2017)

Militants ‘virtually’ running Karachi Central Prison, says CTD inquiry report

An inquiry into the recent jailbreak by two high-profile militants of Lashkar-i-Jhangvi has revealed that some militants belonging to banned outfits were virtually running the affairs of the Central Prison Karachi by imposing their will on jail staff who follow their instructions due to fear or incompetence, it emerged on Monday.

Sources quoting the report of the inquiry conducted by the Counter-Terrorism Department of police told Dawn that the probe into the escape of LJ militants exposed some “incidents of deliberate and systematic intimidation” on part of certain prisoners towards jail authorities.

The jail officials were found ‘powerless’ to ensure discipline for fear of being targeted by the accomplices of such militants, the sources said. The hardcore militants, Shaikh Mohammad Mumtaz alias Firaun and Mohammad Ahmed alias Munna, who had been arrested four years ago by the CTD for killing more than 60 people including several police officials, workers of a political party and Shia community members, had escaped from the judicial complex inside the Karachi prison last month.

The CTD found that the jail authorities were ‘mostly content’ to become part of the system of pervasive corruption that underlined every single activity within the jail. “Thus, the jail has imposed a virtual caste system, with the prisoners who can intimidate or threaten the jail authorities, like members of political parties or Jihadis, enjoying virtually every privilege under the sun and all the other prisoners having to pay through their nose for everything.

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‘Prisoners acting as court clerks, helpers and even assisting in locking and unlocking of the wards’
“The senior jail authorities and specially the superintendent have totally abdicated their responsibility with regard to imposing authority,” said sources privy to the report.

The outcome of such state of affairs was that the prisoners were acting as court clerks, helpers and even assisting in locking and unlocking of the wards.

The CTD report revealed that certain prisoners belonging to militant outfits and political parties had been made 'zimmedar' (responsible for administrating their wards) who operated like 'virtual dons', controlling their networks even outside the jail and getting every conceivable facility inside the prison.

"High-profile prisoners resultantly can do what they like; they can go to the court complex without judicial summons, they can go into other wards when they feel like it, and it is this complete laxity that has led to the situation, where on June 13, two prisoners went to the judicial complex, one of whom did not even have a court date, stayed there, cut the bars of a courtroom and escaped."

Furthermore, the CTD said it was the complete command failure and abdication of responsibility of the jail staff that the escape of the two high-profile prisoners went unreported until the next morning because "even the simple and crucial act of counting the prisoners has been outsourced to the prisoners themselves."

There was certainly 'gross negligence' on the part of the jail authorities behind the escape of two UTPs, but the CTD disclosed that this was not a new phenomenon, as some arrested jail staff told the inquiry team that such state of affairs had been persisting for the past 15 to 20 years.

"So deeply has this become institutionalised that in fact, one can question whether there was any point in sending high-profile prisoners to jail, because being in prison makes them safe from further prosecution and allows them to continue their activities without fear of the law enforcers."

Delayed justice

The CTD report also revealed that there were many UTPs whose cases have been pending before the ATCs for years, thus such prisoners were not particularly concerned about being convicted of heinous crimes. It found that one of the escaped UTPs, Shaikh Mumtaz, was arrested in 2013 and was challaned in several cases before ATC but none has been decided so far.

Another high-profile LJ militant, Hafiz Qasim Rasheed, who was the roommate of escaped Shaikh Mumtaz, had allegedly threatened jail officials, police officers, witnesses and even judicial staff openly with no one able to do anything about it while his cases were pending in courts for past many years.

Sarmad Siddiqui, another high-profile prisoner who was allegedly involved in the Karachi airport attack, was another self-styled 'zimmedar' of his ward in the jail, the sources disclosed to Dawn.

The CTD also alleged that MQM militants such as Minhaj Qazi also operated as 'dons' in the prison.

The department recommended to the provincial authorities that such high-profile prisoners be kept in 'isolation' and under high security but instead they were allegedly giving 'instructions' to the jail staff in the prison.

'Defects' in FIR

Regarding the registration of an FIR against 11 jail officials on the complaint of former DIG prisons Ashraf Nizamani who was later suspended over charges of negligence, the CTD report said it appeared as if the jail authorities had been selective in fixing the responsibility of the jailbreak.

"Many of those arrested ostensibly have no reason to have been charged whereas several others, whose names were not included in the FIR, have a clear responsibility for the negligence but were not nominated."

The CTD believed that such jail officials were "saved because they had powerful patrons within the prison department."

The CTD recommended to the authorities concerned to refer cases of such high-profile UTPs to military courts for trial and significantly expand the number of such cases.

"It is necessary for a larger number of, especially Jihadi militants, to be sent to military courts to ensure speedy trial and convictions," recommended the CTD.

Besides, the CTD also proposed the creation of a high-security prison in a remote region of Sindh, where high-profile prisoners could be held in isolation from other prisoners and from Karachi.

Meanwhile, Additional IG CTD Dr Sanaullah Abbasi told Dawn that the CTD's report about the jailbreak was submitted to the chief minister and the provincial minister for prisons. It was on the basis of the findings that the DIG prisons was suspended and it was for the first time that such action was initiated.

The investigation of the jailbreak is still on and the CTD has succeeded in getting physical remand of three jail staffers for interrogation, according to the CTD chief.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 17, 11/07/2017)

Sindh's IG prisons likely to be removed soon

The chief of the prisons in Sindh is likely to be removed soon.



The government is going to make an amendment, enabling the appointment of a cadre police officer instead of a non-cadre officer for the post of the Sindh inspector-general (IG) of prisons, *The Express Tribune* has learnt on Tuesday.

"It would not be the first time that a cadre police officer will command the jails in the province," revealed a Sindh government official, requesting anonymity. "We are going to make some amendments in the Rules of Business to appoint a cadre police officer for the post of IG prisons," the official said.

Escaped LeJ militants walked out of central jail

The provincial home department is currently busy in preparing a summary to move it to Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah. Sindh police's district officials, including Mushtaq Shah, Ghulam Qadir Thebo and Yamin late Khan have served as the IG prisons in the past but in 2013, with some amendments, Nusrat Mangan was appointed as the IG prisons.

The officer said that this was the first time a non-cadre officer, Nusrat Mangan, was appointed as the IG prisons. "Cadre police officers have an expertise. They are better as compared to non-cadre officers, which is why we are going to make an amendment."

Appointed as the IG prisons in 2013, Mangan has served for 30 years.

The Sindh government is looking for a DIG-ranked Sindh police officer to appoint him as the next IG prisons.

40% cameras at Karachi jail were nonfunctional when LeJ militants escaped, says CTD official

"When an officer from the Sindh police is transferred to the prison, their rank is upgraded to the next level. Who will be the next DIG police for the post of the new IG prisons – it has yet to be decided," an officer explained.

SSP Pervez Chandio, who is currently posted at rural Sindh, will be the new DIG prisons, a source privy to the matter revealed.

The decision has been taken following the recent jailbreak in which two hardcore militants, Sheikh Mumtaz alias Firon and Ahmed Khan, of banned sectarian outfit Lashkar-e-Jhangvi managed to escape from the Central Jail, Karachi. They were involved in the killings of law enforcers, rival sect members and political workers.

13 LeJ militants in custody 'threaten' CTD officials in Karachi

Initially, the superintendent of jail and deputy superintendent of jail besides 12 other jail officials and personnel were suspended and arrested over the jailbreak. In a briefing session held at the CM House, Shah had ordered that DIG prisons Ashraf Nizamani should be suspended over the issue.

A case of the jailbreak was registered at the New Town police station where all the 12 jail officials and personnel were arrested. The CM also ordered for the suspension of the New Town police SHO as Shah was informed that the SHO did not register the FIR on the issue correctly.

The CTD is leading the investigation into the jailbreak, but there has been no major breakthrough so far. A notification of the suspension of DIG Prisons and New Town SHO has, however, been issued.

Meanwhile, reacting to the plan for an amendment, the IG jails strongly condemned the government's plan to appoint a cadre police officer. "The escape of the two under-trial prisoners is one such example in these years, especially since I took a charge of IG prisons in 2013," explained Mangan while talking to *The Express Tribune*.

Unlike male inmates, female ones do not have to sleep on floor: prisons IG

"However, there are a number of incidents of jail riots and jailbreaks in various jails of Sindh, including Malir, Sukkur and Jacobabad, in which dozens of inmates were killed and escaped which were before my tenure when the cadre officers were the IG prisons," Mangan said.

He stressed that the government should take the matter seriously. "Cadre and non-cadre is not an issue but the issue is the requirements to run the jails. There should be enough strength to run the jails. This is the main reason," he stressed. "When General Headquarters and Naval bases were attacked, did that mean removing the then Army and Naval chiefs?" he questioned.

(By Faraz Khan The Express Tribune 13, 12/07/2017)

Massive reshuffle in Sindh police hierarchy amid IGP's reservations

The Sindh government on Monday transferred and appointed five additional inspectors general (AIGs) of police — the Karachi police chief and four deputy inspectors general (DIGs) — in a major reshuffle that is being seen as a move by political elites to 'isolate' incumbent IGP A.D. Khowaja.

Sources in the police department told Dawn that Mr Khowaja in a letter to Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed his 'serious reservations' over the ongoing transfers and postings of police officers "in large numbers and without any consultation with the police department".

In the letter, the sources said, IGP Khowaja stated that the police performance was 'badly affected' due to frequent transfers and postings of officers in large numbers without any consultation with senior police officers.

In this situation, if any untoward incident took place, the home minister might be held responsible for it, the sources quoted the police chief as saying. They said the police secretariat (CPO) had almost become 'paralysed' in the absence of DIG Headquarters, DIG Finance and other senior officers.

Critics see it as a move to 'isolate' IGP A.D. Khowaja

According to a notification issued by Sindh Chief Secretary Rizwan Memon, Ghulam Qadir Thebo, a PSP officer (BS-21) presently serving as chairman of the Enquiries and Anti-Corruption Establishment Sindh, Karachi was transferred and appointed as Additional Inspector General (AIG) Police, Karachi, replacing AIG Mushtaq Ahmed Mahar.

AIG Mahar was posted as AIG Traffic, replacing Khadim Hussain Bhatti who was transferred and posted as AIG Police Research and Development and Inspection. The incumbent AIG Police Research and Development and Inspection Sardar Abdul Majeed was transferred and appointed as AIG Sindh.

The incumbent AIG Sindh Dr Aftab Ahmed Pathan was transferred and posted as AIG Crime Branch, relieving AIG Dr Sanaullah Abbasi of the additional charge.

Separately, the chief secretary also appointed Dr Amir Ahmed Shaikh, awaiting posting as DIG Technical and Transport against an existing vacancy. Dr Shaikh was allowed to also hold the charge of DIG Training Sindh in addition to his own, relieving Imran Yaqoob Minhas of the additional charge.

Imran Minhas was transferred and appointed as DIG Traffic, Licensing and Training Karachi, replacing Mazhar Nawaz Shaikh.

Mazhar Nawaz Shaikh was transferred and posted as DIG Security, Karachi against an existing vacancy, according to the notification.

The provincial government recently took back the power of appointing SPs and SSPs from IGP A.D. Khawaja amid reports about the 'tussle' between the political elites belonging to the ruling PPP and the provincial police.

Sources in the provincial government told Dawn that grade-21 civil servants were usually transferred and appointed by the Establishment Division in Islamabad. Since these officers were at the disposal of the provincial government, the province can transfer and post them.

Another notification issued by the chief secretary stated that the home minister had been empowered to sack and appoint police officers up to the rank of DIGs across the province, thus there was no need to seek approval of the chief minister for transfer and appointment of such senior police officers.

The sources privy to this development said that the chief minister had no 'say' in the transfers and postings of the senior police officers.

"It was a political decision taken by the political elites whose motive appeared to [be to] isolate IGP A.D. Khawaja," opined one of the top-ranking police officers who wished not to be named.

"Such massive reshuffle has triggered anxiety among the civil servants," said an official of the provincial government on condition of anonymity.

The officer said such major reshuffle in the police department had not been made even when Gen Pervez Musharraf had taken over the country. Usually the AIGs were appointed and allowed to select their team of junior officers, he said.

But in this case SPs and SSPs had been transferred and posted across Sindh over the past three to four days and the AIGs would have to work with the team already selected for them.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 17, 18/07/2017)

Investigators suspect militant sleeper cells active in Karachi again



The murder of three policemen in Karachi on Friday was the third consecutive attack on law enforcers in 2017, but, unfortunately, investigators probing these attacks have yet to nab the group or groups behind the incidents. They believe that 'sleeper cells' of different militant outfits have been activated in Karachi, particularly to target policemen.

The policemen and a minor boy who lost their lives in the deadly attack in Korangi were laid to rest amid tears and outpourings of grief on Saturday.

The policemen and child lost their lives, while another minor passerby was critically wounded when six armed men riding on at least three motorcycles opened fire on their police mobile near Darul Uloom in Korangi, within the limits of Awami Colony police station.

Three policemen martyred in Karachi gun attack

The funeral prayers of ASI Qamaruddin and constables Babar Shah and Afzal, who was earlier identified as Amjad, were offered at Police Headquarters, Garden and were attended by a large number of senior officials including Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Information Minister Nasir Hussain Shah, Rangers Director-General Major General Muhammad Saeed, Sindh IG Allah Dino Khawaja, Karachi Additional IG Ghulam Qadir Thebu and various zonal DIGs and district SSPs.

“The terrorists involved in this act of terrorism will be arrested soon,” vowed IG Khawaja. “These acts of terrorism cannot lower the morale of the police,” he said, adding that the police would continue its operations against crimes and criminals and will continue to sacrifice their lives in order to protect the lives and property of the people.

The IG announced Rs5 million for each martyred policeman, besides a job in the police department for their heirs.

Third attack

This is not the first time the police have been targeted this year – two similar incidents have occurred in the city in 2017. On June 23, four policemen were shot dead in an act of targeted killing in SITE area when they were opening their fasts. A pamphlet bearing a message from militant group Ansarul Sharia, Pakistan was found at the crime scene. Jamaatul Ahrar, a splinter group of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), had claimed responsibility for the deadly attack on the police mobile in Dhoraji neighbourhood in May, in which two policemen were killed and another was critically wounded.

Targeted: Constable killed as gunmen ambush police officials

But this time, the investigators have not found any pamphlet at the crime scene. On Saturday, however, Ali Bin Sufiyan, spokesperson for Lashkar-e-Jhangvi alAlmi claimed responsibility for the attack through social media.

Investigators believe that the series of attacks on policemen in Karachi is a result of a nexus of different militant groups, as it is believed that militant ‘ sleeper cells ’ have been activated in the city.

“We believe that the sleeper cells of the different militants outfits like Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi alAlmi, Jamaatul Ahrar and Ansarul Shariah Pakistan have been activated in Karachi and their main goal to target the police,” explained a senior counter-terrorism officer. “Each group comprises between four to six members with different [fake] identities.”

Raja Umar Khattab of the Counter-Terrorism Department said that there is no doubt that militant outfits are behind the series of attacks on the police and that the Ansarul Shariah Pakistan are most likely involved. This militant organisation is new in Pakistan but the militants are old hands at terrorism, he said. “These militants had earlier been associated with different militant outfits, including alQaeda and Da’ish,” he explained. “They are experts. Shooting at least 45 times does not mean that they are amateurs; they are professionals who aimed to expose their full power. The second thing is that the police are a very soft target but have a hard impact,” he said.

Three policemen martyred in Peshawar attack

The investigators have also obtained the initial ballistics cross matching of the bullets, which suggest that the weapons used in the recent attack had not been previously used in a criminal activity. The investigators are puzzled over the multiple shots fired at the victims. “Usually one cop is shot by militants in such attacks twice, thrice or even four times but this was a strange incident, as they shot one constable 18 times and the remaining two 12 times each,” said another senior police official. “The question is, why did they shoot them so many times, when they were killed after the first two to three bullets were fired?” he questioned. “They must have been trying to convey a message, but we have yet to decipher it,” he said.

Meanwhile, FIR No 105/17 has been registered at the Counter-Terrorism Department on behalf of the state. In the initial report prepared by police investigators, the policemen, in their police van, arrived at the

scene to check a truck that was involved in an accident when the terrorists attacked them. The DSP and SHO of the Awami Colony police station were suspended by the Karachi AIG in relation to the incident. (By Faraz Khan, The Express Tribune, 13, 23/07/2017)

IGP issues new guidelines after attack on police van in Korangi

The renewed wave of attacks on policemen has not only caused loss of life but also raised serious questions about professionalism, policing skills and intelligence level of the law enforcement agency, prompting the Sindh police chief to issue new guidelines for the force across the city, it emerged on Saturday.

The fresh set of measures includes regular firing exercises, deployment of young policemen at public places and replacement of old fleet of vehicles with new ones.

This was decided in a meeting chaired by IGP A.D. Khowaja soon after the funeral of the three slain policemen at police headquarters in Garden.

The funeral was attended by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, provincial minister Nasir Shah, A.D. Khowaja, DG Rangers Maj Gen Mohammad Saeed, Additional IG Karachi Ghulam Qadir Thebo, Additional IG Dr Sanaulah Abbasi of Counter-Terrorism Department and other senior officers.

At the meeting, the IGP appeared unsatisfied with the policing skills of the personnel. In the recent attacks, they failed to sense the danger and react in a timely manner, officials said.

The meeting decided to focus on capacity building of the existing force that included enhancing their operational skills, intelligence level and reaction time while handling different acts of crime and terrorism.

Official sources said IGP Khowaja directed the Karachi police chief and DIGs of all police zones to ensure regular firing practice of all the personnel on the operations side.

Two of the three slain policemen buried in Karachi, another in Kandhkot after funeral

The provincial police chief also informed the meeting that the shortage of police personnel would be met within the next two to three months, with over 6,000 policemen being trained by the army for deployment in the city.

The officials said IGP Khowaja also gave directive for running three shifts instead of two in order to improve the efficiency of the personnel.

The IGP, who was visibly saddened by the killing of nine policemen during the past few months, expressed his extreme displeasure over the repeated violation of SOPs (standard operating procedures) by the policemen.

Additional IG Karachi Ghulam Qadir Thebo told Dawn that they decided to take preventive measures and ensure effective implementation of the SOPs. However, he said the city police had only 2,700 bullet-proof jackets though the strength of police force was 29,000.

AIG Thebo said since pickup vans of the police had been targeted in recent attacks, the IGP was requested to order replacement of such vehicles.

Meanwhile, slain constables Babar and Afzal were buried in local graveyards in Karachi, while the coffin of ASI Qamaruddin was taken to his native town in Kandhkot for burial.

A 12-year-old passer-by, Zahid, was also killed while his friend, Abid, was hurt in the firing. The children were playing in Burmi Colony near Darul Uloom Korangi where the attack took place on Friday evening.

New weapons used

Meanwhile, the Counter-Terrorism Department registered a case on a complaint of a CTD official against unidentified suspects for the killing of three officials of the Awami Colony police station and initiated investigations into it.

The CTD investigators said the attackers opened indiscriminate fire on the policemen, as ASI Qamaruddin received 16 bullets while constables Babar and Afzal sustained 13 and 11 bullets, respectively.

Karachi police chief AIG Thebo said he had set up a special team led by DIG East to investigate the case. The committee comprised SSPs Investigations, Korangi district and the SIU.

The AIG Karachi revealed that spent bullet casings found from the crime scene did not match with those used in the previous four terror cases in the city.

However, Mr Thebo said they suspected the involvement of newly established group, Ansarul Sharia behind Friday's attack as well.

He said this outfit had carried out the first act of terror in a Gulistan-i-Jauhar mobile franchise where a guard wearing uniform of Police Qaumi Razakar, resembling the police's uniform, was gunned down on Feb 21. He was targeted on suspicions of being a policeman.

Later, militants killed a retired army colonel near Baloch Colony Bridge on April 5. This outfit was also involved in the targeted killing of two policemen in the Dhoraji area on May 20. Later, four policemen were gunned down in the SITE area on June 23 by the same militants.

The involvement of the same group in these four incidents had emerged through the forensic examinations of spent bullet casings used in the killings.

The city police chief admitted that so far, no member of this group had been arrested. However, he claimed that concerted efforts would be made to bust this militant outfit.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 17, 23/07/2017)

Maladministration creeps into police ranks as IG 'loses control' of dept

Intervention is needed in order to save the police department from falling into complete anarchy, warned Sindh Inspector General of Police Allah Dino Khawaja in a letter to Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah. The IG said the situation may deteriorate into a state of complete maladministration if action is not taken. He also cautioned that the situation may have serious implications on the law and order of the province.



The Sindh government earlier withdrew the IG's powers to transfer and post SPs and SSPs in the province and instituted changes in the ranks of the police department in a massive reshuffle. Sources privy to the development had told The Express Tribune that more than 17 SSPs and SPs were transferred as a trickledown effect of differences between the Sindh IG and home minister.

The Sindh police chief told the chief minister that he was no longer in control of his department, as government departments were meddling in police affairs, crippling its entire administrative structure.

Transfer: Sindh govt appoints new prisons DIG

"Since one month, a number of administrative orders have been taken by the home department and services and general administration department, which undermine the administrative control of the IG over police officers, including powers to grant casual leaves to subordinates," read a copy of the letter obtained by The Express Tribune. "A number of staff officers serving at the Central Police Office were

summoned by the home ministry and unnecessarily pressured. This situation is ultimately leading to the weak command and control over subordinates,” it stated.

“While on one hand, during the recent massive reshuffle of senior police officers, the input of the IG was not sought, on the other even the important staff officers forming the core team of the IG posted at the CPO, including the operations AIG and finance DIG were transferred without any justification,” argued the letter.

“In most cases officers were transferred without completing reasonable tenures and on grounds other than administrative exigency, which has led to the complete breakdown of daily routine work at CPO and the paralysing of the police as an organisation.”

Sindh govt empowers home minister to transfer, post senior cops

IG Khawaja went on to say that the recommendations sent by his office in regards to postings, transfers and disciplinary proceedings against certain officers are being consistently ignored, which is encouraging misconduct.

The letter went on to mention discussions on police reforms and the administrative independence of the IG during the last apex committee meeting, where it was resolved to empower the police chief for effective command and control over his subordinates. The letter stated that unfortunately subsequent orders issued by the home department negate that decision.

“I may further submit that even under the existing Police Act, 1861, the IG is vested with administrative control over the police force in the province,” read the letter.

As an IG it falls under my responsibility to bring these issues to your attention in order for you to take remedial measures, said IG Khawaja in the letter.

I want to work within my limits: Sindh IG

“I request you to please intervene to save the department from drifting into complete maladministration. If timely actions are not taken to reverse the tide the situation may also have serious implications on the law and order situation in the province,” pleaded the IG in his letter to Shah.

The tussle between IG Khawaja and the Sindh government began over the transfer and postings of police officers but came to the surface when the Sindh government sent IG Khawaja on forced leave. However, IG Khawaja resumed charge of his office after the court intervened. The provincial top cop has offered to surrender his services, but the matter is currently in court.

(By Our Correspondent, Tribune, 13, 24/07/2017)

Another targeted attack on police leaves one dead in Gulshan

Assailants riding a motorbike shot dead a traffic police constable and wounded another on busy Abul Hasan Ispahani Road in the Gulshan-i-Iqbal area on Monday evening, police said.

The incident, the second one in less than four days as three policemen were killed in Korangi on July 21, has left a question mark over the effectiveness of the targeted operation in Karachi and the performance of the law enforcement agencies.

Sohrab Goth DSP Khalid Khan said that two traffic policemen were performing their duty near the Paradise Bakery traffic signal when armed pillion riders came close to them, fired at them from a very close range and rode away.

As a result, Head Constable Mohammad Khan and Constable Kamran suffered serious bullet wounds and were shifted to a nearby private hospital in Gulshan-i-Iqbal, where doctors pronounced Khan dead.

Renewed wave of killings puts question mark on targeted operation

The deceased sustained a bullet wound to the head, while the wounded constable was shot in the chest. The DSP said that the two policemen wore their bulletproof vests when the attackers fired at them.

Counter-Terrorism Department SSP Omar Shahid Hamid told Dawn that investigators collected seven spent bullet casings fired from a 9mm pistol from the scene of the crime.

Before fleeing, the culprits also took away the MP-5 rifle of the wounded constable, he said, adding that the assailants covered their faces with surgical masks.

SSP East Irfan Baloch told Dawn that four policemen patrolling on two motorbikes saw two suspects on a two-wheeler near Maskan Chowrangi on the same Abul Hasan Ispahani Road and signalled them to stop. However, the assailants resorted to firing and the police returned fire. The suspects managed to escape towards Gulistan-i-Jauhar, the SSP said.

He said that the policemen had targeted the tyres of the fleeing suspects' motorcycle and one of them might have suffered a bullet wound.

He said the police believed the suspects were actually the ones who had earlier targeted the traffic policemen since they fired at the police with the snatched MP-5 rifle.

Investigators collected around 10-15 spent bullet casings fired from the MP-5 rifle from the crime scene.

The incident took place despite the fact that the Karachi police was put on red alert following the Lahore blast that claimed around two dozen lives earlier in the day.

This was the second deadly attack on police in less than a week.

On July 21, three policemen and a 12-year-old boy were killed by six gunmen riding on three motorcycles in Korangi. The attack left a passer-by wounded.

The attack, which came as a grim reminder of the targeted killing of policemen and a retired army officer in the past few months, raises questions about the success of the intelligence-based targeted operations in the city.

"Today's incident appeared to be part of a recent wave of attacks on law enforcers in the city," opined SSP Hamid.

He said that the footage from CCTV cameras showed that it was the peak of rush hour. The traffic policemen were seen regulating traffic and also they wore bulletproof jackets, he added.

Meanwhile, Sindh police chief A.D. Khowaja took notice of the incident and directed the DIG East to submit a detailed report. He also issued directions that a special team should be set up to arrest the culprits involved in the incident.

Sindh Home Minister Sohail Anwar Siyal also took notice of the deadly attack and sought a report from the Karachi police chief.

He also directed the authorities concerned to conduct snap-checking and to beef up security.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 17, 25/07/2017)

Corps commander, governor pledge to ensure durable peace in Karachi

The military establishment on Thursday hinted that the Karachi operation, which is going to complete four years next month, was not going to end anytime soon as the new corps commander of the city in a meeting with the Sindh governor vowed to continue the exercise "till its logical end".

During a meeting at Governor House Governor Mohammed Zubair and Corps Commander Karachi Lt-Gen Shahid Baig Mirza discussed efforts that were afoot to make peace in the city sustainable and lasting, after the sacrifices of many security and law enforcement personnel.

“They [Sindh governor and corps commander] discussed the overall law and order situation in Sindh, the ongoing operation and issues of mutual interest in detail,” said a statement issued from Governor House after the meeting. “It was agreed during the meeting that the ongoing operation would continue till its logical end. Both the dignitaries showed resolve to meet all the challenges for sustainable peace in Karachi and other parts of the province.”

The corps commander’s thoughts came a few days after the results of the nearly four-year-old Karachi operation were challenged in targeted attacks carried out recently in different parts of the city mainly targeting Karachi police personnel and some political workers. Only last month, some half a dozen policemen in different parts of the city and at least four workers associated with different political parties were killed.

‘Karachi operation to continue till its logical end’

In the aftermath of the operation, launched in September 2013, the city’s security situation improved as peace was restored to both residential and commercial areas after years of bloodshed on sectarian, ethnic and political bases. However, the violent incidents witnessed a surge in recent weeks, setting alarm bells ringing in the quarters concerned.

The fresh assaults on one hand pushed the provincial government to do more when Sindh Home Minister Sohail Anwar Siyal suspended the SHOs of seven police stations for their poor performance and, on the other, attracted a warning from the Karachi corps commander to elements trying to disrupt the situation.

“Those who are trying to destabilise the situation would not be spared. The security and law enforcement agencies have offered great sacrifices for peace in Karachi and other areas of Sindh and their efforts will not go waste,” the statement quoted Lt-Gen Mirza as saying.

The corps commander pledged his support to make peace in the city sustainable, which was in the larger interest of the people of Karachi. The corps commander also said that steps were under way for the continuity of suitable environment and protection of the people. Sindh Governor Zubair, meanwhile, appreciated the role of security and law enforcement agencies for peace in Karachi that had started bearing fruit.

“Karachi has become an ideal city for investment due to the restoration of peace. Both national and international investors are coming to the megacity, which is a reflection of their trust and interest in business opportunities offered by Karachi,” the statement quoted the governor as saying.

(Dwan News, 17, 04/08/2017)

IG’s power struggles reach the high court



The issues relating to the ongoing power tussle between Sindh Inspector-General of Police Allah Dino Khawaja and the provincial government continue to be agitated in the judiciary, as the Sindh High Court (SHC) has again been approached regarding the withdrawal of the police chief’s powers.

The court issues notices on Friday to the provincial chief secretary and others over withdrawal of the IG’s powers in alleged contempt of the court’s order.

A two-judge bench, headed by Justice Munib Akhtar, directed the alleged contemnors to submit their replies within one week.

The contempt of court application was filed on behalf of the Pakistan Institute of Labour, Education and Research (Piler) and other civil society organisations that had previously filed a petition against the

removal of IG Khawaja from the top provincial cop's post and the provincial government's decision to hand over his services to the Centre.

On May 30, the division bench had reserved its verdict on their petition after lengthy proceedings initiated in December last year. On Friday, their lawyer, Faisal Siddiqui, informed the two judges that the provincial government recently took away the IG's powers to transfer and post officers in the police department.

SHC stays IG's removal for one more day

He alleged that the reshuffles in the police on a large scale were being carried out on the directions of Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Home Minister Sohail Anwar Siyal and others. He argued that such transfers and postings were made without mandatory consultation with the IG, who was the head of the police force.

The lawyer alleged that the respondents had paralysed the provincial police chief, as his powers had been taken away. He argued that the police officers' transfers and postings without consultation with the IG could prove detrimental to the law and order situation in the province.

Siddiqui further argued that the Sindh government could not order the transfer or posting of officers working on key posts without consultation with the provincial police officer, but the respondents were doing the same.

He told the judges that the court had already reserved its verdict in the matter relating to removal of the IG Khawaja, adding the respondents' act of ordering the transfer and postings of the officers without his consultation and leaving him powerless was tantamount to committing contempt of the court's interim orders passed earlier.

AD Khawaja removal case: Cabinet endorses provincial govt's decision to replace IG

Therefore, the court was pleaded to restrain the alleged contemnors, including the provincial chief secretary and others, from reshuffling police officers without discussing the matters with the IG. It was also requested to initiate contempt of court proceedings against them for willfully and deliberately ordering reshuffles in violation of the court's interim orders.

Case history

Since April 6, the court has stayed the removal of IG Khawaja from the post by the provincial government, which had surrendered his services to the federal government on March 31.

The interim stay was granted on two applications seeking contempt of the court order proceedings against the provincial authorities for removing IG Khawaja from the post in an alleged violation of the earlier stay order and suspension of the government's notification that gave the additional charge of the post to AIG Abdul Majeed Dasti.

Both the pleas were moved by a group of non-governmental organisations, including Piler and the Urban Resource Centre. The NGOs had approached the court against the likely removal of the police chief from the post of IG in December last year and for reforms in the policing system in the province.

(By Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, 14, 05/08/2017)

'PPP-MQM rift having devastating impact on Karachi's civic conditions'

With the city's local government deliberately kept paralysed, Karachi is passing through one of the worst civic crises in its history. Its people are paying a huge cost for the persistent rift between the Pakistan Peoples Party and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement.

These observations were made by former senator and information minister Javed Jabbar while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar held on Saturday evening at the Horticultural Society of Pakistan's (HSP) Garden Centre in Defence Housing Authority. The programme titled 'Tree plantation and environment' was organised by Tree Club, a youth group of the HSP.

Expressing concern over Karachi's civic conditions, Mr Jabbar said the present [provincial] government saw the local government as a threat to its existence and deliberately did not empower it.

Activists discuss project to map city's trees

"Ninety per cent of the people of Karachi reside in areas such as Korangi, Landhi, Malir, Orangi and Machhar Colony (where living conditions are extremely poor). A number of DHA and Clifton areas are also not free of the unpleasant smell of untreated sewage," he said, adding that the Supreme Court had also taken notice of it and held hearings over the matter.

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"Shall we resign to the situation and look [at] it as a fait accompli?" he said, paused and added: "No, we must not. I think there is hope."

Taking the point further, he recalled how people raised their voice against the Murree development project and forced the Punjab government to shelve it over a decade ago.

"The Supreme Court took notice of the issue and it was proved through studies that the project would cause an irreparable damage to the area," he said, adding that a critical mass of dedicated people was important to further the cause of nature conservation and environment.

He appreciated the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for what he described as "excellent work" on part of Malik Amin Aslam, the incumbent global vice president of International Union for Conservation of Nature (and also the environment adviser/chief environmental spokesperson for the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf).

Summaiya Zaidi, a lawyer working for Public Interest Law Association of Pakistan, spoke about the work her association was engaged in and also one of its recent projects.

Pointing out the gaps in the laws relating specifically to tree plantation and conservation, she said there were no laws on tree felling, no rules and regulations had been framed and there were no standardised procedures on tree plantation and tree documentation.

According to her the local government act of 2013 talked about tree plantation but the district municipal corporations responsible for undertaking the required job are working without collaboration and have no qualified expert in their teams. "There is no database and no guidelines for tree [plantation] campaigners," she added.

Briefing about the Saya Project, she said the aim was to document biodiversity trends in an urban centre and the team had so far recorded 750 trees in Karachi alone.

"We want to map all trees so one can take up a case relating to tree felling to court. There will be an effort to work with different stakeholders and facilitate legislation that could help bring a positive change in environment," she said.

Ecologist Rafiul Haq, architect Salman Ahmed and chairperson of Tree Club Zainab Khan also spoke.
(By Faiza Ilyas, 17, 06/08/2017)

Major terrorist attacks averted as three militants killed, four held

The Counter-Terrorism Department of Sindh police on Monday claimed to have thwarted major terrorist attacks in the city by killing three suspected militants belonging to the 'Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan' (IEA) group of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

Also, four other militants belonging to banned outfits were arrested in different parts of Karachi, as the CTD accelerated efforts to track suspects behind the renewed wave of targeted attacks on law enforcers.

During the past one month, the outlawed TTP had targeted law enforcers in Lahore, Quetta, Chaman and Karachi, according to CTD DIG Amir Farooqi and CTD SSP (Intelligence) Omar Shahid Hamid.

Speaking at a press conference, the senior officers said the police had arrested a suspect in Lyari recently. It emerged during his interrogation that a militant group had been planning some major terror attacks in the country's financial hub.

Police say suspects belonged to TTP's 'Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan' group

After a tip-off received by the CTD police, a targeted raid was conducted in Machhar Colony in the early hours of Monday. In an ensuing exchange of fire, three suspects belonging to the TTP's Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan group were gunned down, the officers said.

"They were planning terror attacks on Ismaili Jamaat Khanas, Rapid Response Force in Baldia, Imambargahs and shrines across the city and had [conducted] one full reconnaissance in this regard," revealed DIG Farooqi.

A suicide bomber was expected to come from Afghanistan through Quetta to carry out the attack on a Jamaat Khana in Karachi, the senior officer said.

The police claimed to have seized a Kalashnikov, two 9mm pistols and a hand grenade from their custody. The seized arms were sent to the forensic division of the police, which confirmed that the same 9mm pistols had been used in the murder of Sub-inspector Riaz in Saeedabad two years ago. The weapon was again used the following year to kill Shafiullah on the suspicion of being a policeman.

DIG Farooqi said the militants had been associated with the TTP's Qari Shakirullah group, which had become 'active' again. "The militants were being patronised by RAW and Afghanistan's NDS," said the CTD officer.

Raids in Jackson, Nazimabad

Separately, the CTD arrested three suspects, identified as Mohammed Ibrahim, Imran and Taj Mohammed and seized three pistols from them during a raid in the Jackson area.

Yet another militant belonging to a banned group, Mohammad Ashfaq, was arrested in Nazimabad, the CTD officer said, adding that a pistol and a hand grenade were seized from his possession.

During initial probe, the held militant 'confessed' to have killed two people, namely Kamran and Abbas Haider, on sectarian grounds in Rizvia Society in 2013.

In reply to a question about the case of the Lashkar-i-Jhangvi militants who had escaped from judicial complex after a jailbreak, the DIG said their assessment showed that they had fled the city. However, he said, their three facilitators had been arrested by the CTD in Abbottabad. They were being interrogated, he added.

'Elements within Afghan intelligence'

Additional IG Dr Sanauallah Abbasi, who heads the CTD, told Dawn that information collected from the captured militants revealed that they belonged to the splinter group of Mufti Shakir-led TTP. He said the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan had split from the Mufti Shakir-led TTP and was "now affiliated with some elements within Afghan intelligence."

"This group had been tasked to conduct reconnaissance of various locations in Karachi including Ismaili community's Jamaat Khanas, Imambargahs, Hamdard University, police training centres and other government installations," apprehended Dr Abbasi.

"The diversity of the target pattern indicates the hand of a foreign intelligence service as their aim, it seems, has been to cause maximum damage and disruption in Karachi," believes the CTD chief.

(By Imtiaz Ali, Dawn News, 17, 08/08/2017)

Robbers gun down bank manager in heist

A manager of the United Bank Limited (UBL) was shot dead in a bid to foil a bank robbery within the limits of the Ferozabad police station Tuesday afternoon. The robbers, however, managed to flee the scene after looting the bank.



A gang of robbers comprising at least four people entered a branch of UBL located near Noorani Kebab House. They first held the security guard hostage at gunpoint and later the bank staff and customers were held hostage. The robbers killed the bank manager and managed to loot Rs600,000 from the cash counter before fleeing the scene.

Robbers escape with Rs1.2m from bank

The deceased was identified as Abdul Rahim Motiwala, 40. He was shot once in his head and died on the spot. His body was taken to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for an autopsy.

An extra contingent of law enforcers reached the site and collected evidence. Police said the incident occurred when the robbers were offered resistance during the robbery bid. "The bank manager was outside the bank when the robbers were fleeing after looting cash from the bank," explained Jamshed division SP Dr Muhammad Rizwan.

"As the manager had seen the robbers while entering the bank, he continued to offer resistance from outside," Rizwan said.

Police claim to have solved Kharadar bank robbery within 24 hours

The officer said that the deceased manager attempted to stop the robbers when they were fleeing after committing the robbery. "The manager grabbed the hand of one of the robbers while they were fleeing, upon which the robber opened fire at him, killing him on the spot," the officer explained.

The robbers were clad in shalwar kameez and had arrived in a Suzuki pickup. They took only one and a half minute to complete their swift operation. However, they did not take the closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras installed at the bank with them.

Police have obtained the CCTV footage from the bank and a search for the robbers is under way. "They [the robbers] escaped towards Khudadad Colony," Rizwan said, adding that police is trying to trace the robbers with help of footage from cameras installed at the routes which the robbers used to escape.

Crime on the rise: 3,500 robberies in first four months of 2017

The deceased was a resident of Federal B Area and a father of three children. His body was later handed over to the family. A case was registered against unidentified persons while further investigation is under way.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Home Minister Suhail Anwar Siyal and Inspector-General of Police Allah Dino Khawaja took notice of the incident and sought a police report about the incident and ordered police to arrest the culprits.

(By Our Correspondent, The Express Tribune, 15, 09/08/2017)

DSP, constable shot dead in gun attack

In yet another gun attack on law enforcers in the city, an officer of traffic police and his official driver were killed on their way to regulate traffic in Azizabad on Friday morning.

The responsibility for the latest attack was claimed by the recently established militant group, Ansarul Sharia Pakistan, which had previously claimed responsibility for the killing of four policemen in an attack in June.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Hanif Khan, 56, and his driver, constable Sultan Ishtiaq, 54, were passing by a private school near Mukka Chowk in Azizabad when two armed motorcyclists opened fire on them and fled, said Central SSP Muqaddas Haider.

SSP Haider said it was morning rush hour while the DSP was in his official car when armed motorcyclists opened fire on him and sped away leaving behind a pamphlet.

Witnesses told the police that there were two attackers on the motorbike, added the officer. The police officers sustained critical bullet wounds and were taken to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where doctors declared them dead on arrival, said police surgeon Dr Aijaz Khokhar.

The officers sustained five bullet wounds each on their chest and head, added Dr Khokhar. Police investigators collected 20 spent bullet casings fired from 9mm pistol, according to the SSP.

SSP Muqaddas Haider told Dawn that the police also collected a pamphlet from the crime scene. In the pamphlet, the purported spokesperson of Ansarul Sharia Pakistan, Dr Abdullah Hashmi, said the attack was 'revenge' for alleged torture of militants in jail and alleged 'undesirable' attitude of law enforcers toward families of the militants during operations.

The pamphlet also contained a warning that if the law enforcers did not stop the killing of militants in 'fake encounters', the revenge would be more horrible.

This was the second attack claimed by this outfit, as previously it had claimed responsibility for the targeted killing of four policemen in SITE by throwing a pamphlet at the crime scene in June.

Banned outfits 'active' again

Sindh police chief A.D. Khowaja and Additional IG Dr Sanaullah Abbasi of the Counter-Terrorism Department visited the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital.

Talking to the media, IGP Khowaja apprehended that banned and sectarian outfits had become 'active' once again in Karachi. He believed that both the traffic officials were attacked because they were 'soft targets'.

So far, 16 policemen have been martyred in the city only this year, said the police chief. Meanwhile, Additional IG Karachi Ghulam Qadir Thebo, AIG Dr Sanaullah Abbasi and DIG West Zulfiqar Larik visited the crime scene.

AIG Thebo told the media that the officer was passing through the area as a matter of routine when he was attacked.

"It appeared that the attackers targeted the DSP after reconnaissance."

AIG Thebo claimed that the investigators had 'traced' links in two previous attacks on policemen and hoped this case would also be solved. However, he did not elaborate.

Dr Abbasi told the media that investigation into the targeted killings of the policemen was moving in "positive direction". He said that the "terrorist" of Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, Qari Shakir, was running "factories" in the city.

Qari Shakir, alias Mufti Shakir, was believed to be leading a group of militants, which was allegedly involved in the killing of policemen in the city, according to CTD officials.

The CTD had recently claimed to have killed three militants linked with Mufti Shakir-led group in an 'encounter' in Machhar Colony.

Mufti Shakir was currently hiding in Afghanistan.

Rs10m reward

Funeral prayer for the martyred officials was held at the SSU headquarters at Hasan Square.

The chief minister, home minister, corps commander, IGP Sindh, DG Rangers and other senior officers attended the funeral

Sindh Home Minister Sohail Anwar Siyal announced Rs10 million reward for any information leading to the arrest of the culprits. He said the name of the informer would be kept secret.

Expressing sympathy with the heirs of the victims, the police chief vowed that the culprits would be brought to justice soon.

“Such cowardly attacks would not dampen the resolve of the police to fight terrorism,” he added.

Friday’s attack on police personnel was the latest in a series of assaults on law enforcers in the city. Almost all the attacks were carried out on Fridays, said the officials.

On May 21, two policemen were shot dead while another was wounded by armed pillion riders in an attack on a stationery police van in the Bahadurabad area.

On June 23, four policemen were shot dead by armed pillion riders at a roadside eatery in the SITE area. The suspects, before fleeing, had thrown a pamphlet in which Ansarul Sharia Pakistan claimed responsibility for the attack.

On July 21, three policemen and a passerby boy were shot dead by six suspects riding three motorcycles in the Korangi area.

Four days later, a traffic policeman was shot dead while another official was wounded by armed pillion riders at the busy Paradise Bakery Chowk, now named after the slain traffic constable Mohammad Khan, on Abul Hasan Ispahani Road in Gulshan-i-Iqbal

(By Imtiaz Ali, Dawn News, 17, 12/08/2017)

A thorn in their side: Court allows NAB to proceed with pending inquiries

The Sindh government’s attempts to circumvent the National Accountability Bureau’s (NAB) operational powers in the province by enacting its own anti-corruption law suffered a blow on Wednesday, as the Sindh High Court (SHC) allowed the accountability watchdog to proceed with pending inquiries or investigations against sitting and former lawmakers and government functionaries till further orders. This is contrary to the government’s intention to hand over all NAB cases to the new provincial accountability authority.



A two-judge bench, headed by SHC Chief Justice Ahmed Ali M Sheikh, further ordered that simultaneously the accountability courts in Sindh will also continue to proceed with corruption references fixed before them.

The bench passed these directives while hearing a petition jointly filed by the opposition parties – the Muttahida Qaumi Movement – Pakistan, Pakistan Muslim League – Functional, Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf – challenging the recently enacted Sindh National Accountability Ordinance 1999 Repeal Bill, 2017. Last week, the court had issued notices on the petition to the federal and provincial law officers to file comments on behalf of the authorities concerned and NAB.

Opposition parties to challenge ordinance repeal in court

During Wednesday’s proceedings, the additional attorney-general, Salman Talibuddin, and NAB Prosecutor-General Waqas Qadeer Dar appeared. They requested time to file comments on behalf of the federal law ministry and NAB chairperson.

Allowing time, the judges directed the NAB prosecutor-general to place on the court’s record a complete list of the members of the Sindh Assembly, both former and sitting, who were facing NAB proceedings, which include inquiries and investigations initiated against them. They further directed him to submit a list of sitting and retired officers of the Sindh government alleged to have been involved in mega corruption scams.

On the other hand, the provincial advocate-general, Barrister Zamir Ghumro, argued that from 1937 to 1997 the anti-corruption law of the federal and provincial governments had been separate. He contended that the petitions were politically motivated, as the petitioners were opponents of the Sindh government, which is led by the Pakistan Peoples Party.

He argued that the application of the National Accountability Ordinance, 1999 on the provinces was a fraud on the Constitution.

Sindh governor shoots down NAB ordinance repeal bill

Objecting to the jurisdiction of the high court to hear and decision the petitions, AG Ghumro contended that the matter was in the nature of dispute between the federal and provincial governments, adding under Article 184 of the Constitution the matter could only be heard by the Supreme Court, if the apex court was approached by the federal government.

“No citizen can agitate this issue before the high court, which has no jurisdiction in the matter,” he told the judges, as he pleaded them to dismiss the petitions filed by the political parties.

However, the bench members directed AG Ghumro to place on record the minutes of deliberations of the Sindh Assembly members prior to the passage of the bill and confirmation of whether or not the bill was placed before any sub-committee for deliberations before its presentation in the assembly.

The court was told that the vires of the Act, the subject matter of these proceedings, had also been challenged before the Supreme Court. Therefore, they directed AAG Talibuddin and the NAB prosecutor-general to verify the same and make a categorical statement on the next date of the hearing.

“In the meanwhile, NAB shall proceed with the inquiries and or investigations pending before it and simultaneously the accountability courts shall continue proceeding with the references fixed before them,” the judges wrote in their order.

NAB in good form despite ordinance repeal

They also directed the office to provide a copy of the order to the federal and provincial law officers, the NAB prosecutor-general and the administrative judge of the accountability courts in Sindh for their information and compliance.

Ordinance repeal

The repeal bill was passed by the Sindh Assembly on July 3 in an attempt to curb the powers of NAB in the province. The bill was put forward to the governor, who refused to give it his approval, saying, “The National Accountability Bureau plays a significant role and it would be against the [interests] of the people to revoke this law. So, I can’t approve this bill to repeal NAB ordinance in Sindh.”

The repeal bill has faced strong opposition from political parties and from other corners, many of whom believe it is an attempt to protect corrupt leaders and members of the ruling party.

The PPP reacts

Reacting to the court’s decision, Parliamentary Minister Nisar Ahmed Khuhro said that the provincial assembly has the right to make the law and that NAB has no authority to investigate corruption cases. Speaking to the media, the minister said it is the democratic right of opposition parties to challenge the law passed by the assembly to repeal the National Accountability Ordinance, 1999 but the court must hear the government’s plea too.

National Accountability Ordinance repealed by Sindh Assembly

“It will be premature to comment on this issue. It is now a subjudice case. We should wait for the court’s decision,” he said.

PPP MPA Saeed Ghani, however referred to the accountability law passed by the PTI-led government in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and said, “PTI is the first party to take the lead in making this law in K-P but they are now opposing the same thing in Sindh”.

“The two laws on the same issue cannot prevail in the province; therefore we repealed the NAB ordinance,” he said.

Ghani said the Sindh Assembly, while repealing the NAB ordinance, has established the Sindh Accountability Agency to investigate corruption cases in the province. He, however, announced that his government would accept the court’s decision.

(By Correspondents, Tribune Express, 13, 17/08/2017)

Five suspected kidnappers killed in ‘encounter’; lawmaker’s son recovered

A 22-year-old son of a provincial assembly lawmaker was safely recovered from a house in Gadap after the killing of five suspected kidnappers in a ‘shoot-out’ near the Northern Bypass on Wednesday evening, police said.

Hayat Baloch, the eldest son of PPP legislator and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Katchi Abadis Murtaza Baloch, had been kidnapped along with some relatives on their way to Gadap from Malir Cantonment two days ago, officials said.

While other hostages were released at a deserted place in Gadap late Monday night, the kidnappers called from different areas in Karachi and Hub (Balochistan) to demand a ransom of Rs10 million for the safe release of Hayat, the officials said.

In his brief talk with the media following the youth’s recovery, Sindh Home Minister Sohail Anwar Siyal disclosed that two women were detained for interrogation during a raid on the building where Hayat had been kept by his captors for nearly two days.

Two women detained for interrogation

The police had traced the location of the hostage during a thorough search of the area on Tuesday with the help of the clues provided by the freed relatives of the victim, while the hideout of the kidnappers was identified with the help of modern technology, said Malir SSP Rao Anwar Ahmed.

“It was a mixture of technology and human intelligence that helped the police to trace the location of kidnappers and solve the case within two days,” said Additional IG Ghulam Qadir Thebo.

The city police chief said that ransom calls were made from Karachi and Hub. But the police were trying to ensure safe recovery of the youth for which the operation was launched on Wednesday evening as there was heavy rain on Tuesday.

AIG Thebo said that two police teams, one led by Special Investigation Unit and the other by Malir SSP Rao Anwar, were working on the case.

The kidnappers had demanded Rs10m ransom for his release, said Malir SSP while quoting the father of the hostage.

Rao Anwar said the police did not talk too much with the kidnap victim’s family, as they were in a state of shock. But one of the freed relatives told the police that the kidnappers had taken them in a vehicle and drove it for around 20 to 25 minutes before abandoning them. His relative told the police that there was heavy rain in the area. Based on the information, the police assumed that the criminals might not have covered much distance due to the flooding of the low-lying area.

Meanwhile, with technological help the police traced the hideout of the kidnappers near Northern Bypass and raided the place. However, the suspects resorted to firing in an attempt to flee. In the exchange of gunfire, all the five suspects were killed, the police officer said.

SSP Anwar said the kidnappers belonged to a local gang of criminals. There was no evidence suggesting their affiliation with any militant outfit, he said, adding that they “looked like locals”.

The police seized two TT pistols and a Kalashnikov from the custody of the deceased. The search in the Gadap area culminated in the safe recovery of the youth from a house. Two women were picked up from the same building for interrogation, the home minister told the media after meeting Hayat at the Gadap City police station.

Mr Siyal also announced Rs1m cash reward and appreciation certificate for the police team. Separately, Karachi police chief Ghulam Qadir Thebo also announced Rs100,000 for SSP Malir Rao Anwar and his team, which managed to recover the son of the lawmaker. The city police chief appreciated the performance of Rao Anwar, said the police spokesperson.

Earlier, the Gadap police had registered an FIR (105/2017) of the kidnapping on a complaint of Hayat's cousin, Mohammed Yusuf.
(By Imtiaz Ali, Dawn, 17, 24/08/2017)

IG Sindh inaugurates 9110 helpline centre



With the aim to address the complaints of citizens, Sindh Inspector General of Police (IG) Allah Dino Khawaja inaugurated on Thursday the public complaint helpline 9110 at Central Police Office (CPO).

Addressing a press conference at CPO, Khawaja, flanked by Special Branch Additional IG Dr Waliullah Dal and other senior police officers, said the helpline initiates an integrated system at the law enforcement agency to speedily address public complaints.

"All calls made to 9110 will be recorded and monitored by a dedicated team, while I myself will look into the serious matters that are reported on it," he said. "The system is interlinked with all divisions of the police across the province and intends to serve public," the IG added.

Son of PPP lawmaker Murtaza Baloch kidnapped from Karachi's Malir Cantt

People would be able to register complaints against police officers if they refuse to register their valid FIRs, don't investigate the cases properly, keep someone in custody illegally, demand bribes or if they get involved in any other wrongdoing, the IG asserted.

He clarified that the police helpline 15 will still be working and the public should dial it in case of any emergency. "It is necessary that people belonging to all walks to life should contribute individually as well as collectively against crimes," the police chief commented.

Police to install CCTVs across city

The IG told media that police department was working on a project to install 10,000 Closed Circuit Television cameras across the metropolis, in a bid to curb the street crimes.

The cameras, in addition to the existing ones, will be installed at different points in the city. The police have identified the areas with the help of reports lodged with the CPLC and police stations where street crimes are high.

Three terrorists involved in attacks on Karachi police arrested

"Street crime is a serious challenge and ordinary measures will not suffice to end it. A comprehensive strategy is required to tackle it," he added, stressing on judicial reforms and improved infrastructure in the city.

He said that the police, within its available resources, were making all efforts to tackle street crimes that have become a nightmare for the residents. He added that recently a special task force was also established, which will patrol the roads and streets and take immediate action against criminals as and when reported.

(The Express Tribune 15, 25/08/2017)

Policeman among kidnapers of lawmakers son

Police said on Thursday that two of the killed suspected kidnapers were identified and one of them was a policeman, involved in the kidnapping of a lawmaker's son.

Hayat Baloch, son of PPP lawmaker from Malir Ghulam Murtaza Baloch, was kidnapped while he was travelling with his family members in the Gadap area late on Monday night.

Police on Wednesday evening conducted an operation off Northern Bypass and gunned down five suspected kidnapers and recovered the young son of the legislator safely. Malir SSP Rao Anwar Ahmed on Thursday told Dawn that one of the killed kidnapers, identified as Mukhtar Ali, was a police constable. He was posted at the Karampur police station of Shikarpur district before he was sent to Karachi for census duty. Here he was posted at the Landhi police station.

Another killed suspected kidnapper was also identified through his computerised national identity card as Kalu Khan.

Rao Anwar said he had contacted the Shikarpur SSP after it was found that the policeman had been involved in criminal activities here. The Malir SSP said that two women taken into custody at a house in Khuda Bakhsh Brohi Goth, where the encounter took place, told the police investigators that the killed policeman was also involved in "two to three" other kidnapping incidents.

The officer said the women were being interrogated over "facilitating" the kidnapers. He claimed that when the police conducted a raid at the house there, the women had put a rulli (bed sheet) on Hayat Baloch, who was found chained there.

Rao Anwar said that three accomplices of the killed suspects were also absconders in the case who had taken away two mobile phones of the victim. He said that through those mobile phones they made a demand for a ransom of Rs10 million from North Nazimabad and Hub in Balochistan.

The officer said the killed suspects had "links" with criminals in Balochistan.
(Dawn, 17, 25/08/2017)

Mushtaq Maher returns as Karachi police chief



Only after 37 days of his appointment, Sindh government removed Karachi Police Chief Ghulam Qadir Thebo and brought back Mushtaq Maher on the post, on Wednesday.

On July 17, Maher was removed as Karachi police chief and was given the post of traffic additional inspector-general (IG).

Surprisingly, the government has now brought Maher back to the same position, relieving Thebo and transferring him to the post of traffic additional IG.

Official sources in Sindh government claimed that chief minister (CM) and apex committee members were not satisfied with the performance of Thebo, who, according to them, failed to curb the recent surge of crime, especially banks daocities, kidnapping and killings in the city. "In his one month tenure, around eight cops were killed, five banks were looted, son of Pakistan Peoples Party [PPP] MPA Murtaza Baloch was kidnapped and numbers of daocities were reported in the city. This irked the CM and other apex committee members, who evolved consensus to transfer him," sources said.

Ghulam Qadir Thebo replaces Mushtaq Maher as Karachi police chief

According to sources, Thebo, who was earlier working as anti-corruption chairperson, was also a strong candidate to replace AD Khawaja as the IG. However, some lobbies in the government played the role to transfer him.

“Ever since he took charge of the department, some elements in the government, ruling party and media became active against him, creating hype that he has failed to control crime in the city and he should be transferred,” said a senior police official, on condition of anonymity. “Finally, he was shown the door,” he added.

Another official in the home department claimed that a month ago, when Thebo had replaced Maher, representatives of intelligence agencies, who are also part of apex committee, had expressed reservation over the decision, expressing their trust in Maher because of his good reputation in the police. “Maher is honest and unlike other officers he does not directly deal with SHOs, which is why most of the police officers were afraid of him,” sources said, adding that recent surge of crime and killings showed the difference between Thebo and Maher’s tenures, when it comes to law and order in Karachi.

TTP militants behind police killings gunned down in Karachi

Thebo, who is also close to PPP leadership, while talking to media accepted the decision and said, “One month period for a police chief to prove [himself] in the city is nothing”.

Sources said that Thebo had changed many SHOs in Karachi and after this decision massive reshuffle in the police at lower level is on the card. Sindh Home minister Sohail Anwar Siyal, however, termed it a routine change, which according to him, is government propogative. “Media should avoid giving certificate of honest and dishonest. Both the officers are competent and appointed by PPP government on coveted posts,” he said.

(The Express Tribune 13, 25/08/2017)

Police helpline in Karachi to get 100 mobile vans



In a bid to improve performance and help the citizens, police authorities have decided to provide 100 police mobile vans to the police helpline, Madadgar 15.

This was announced on Saturday by Sindh IG Allah Dino Khawaja during a visit to the new building of the helpline established at the premises of the Airport police station. The IG also discussed the ongoing developments and infrastructure for the helpline.

The zonal DIGs, DIG administration and information technology director also attended the meeting.

I want to work within my limits: Sindh IG

Khawaja directed the DIG administration to provide all necessary equipment, including computers and infrastructure, on a priority basis to Madadgar 15.

“100 new specialised police vans will be provided to Madadgar 15 soon,” he announced, adding that the vans will only be in use by Madadgar 15 to take timely action on citizens’ complaints.

He said that the names of the zone, district and the police station will also be mentioned on each police mobile van.

IG Sindh inaugurates 9110 helpline centre

“A special Android device will be attached with van which will be interlinked with the Madadgar 15 centre,” Khawaja explained.

“The Android device will help police personnel to timely reach the spot concerned to help the citizens.”

The IG also asked the concerned authorities to provide two heavy generators to the Madadgar 15 centre to avoid any inconvenience.
(The Express Tribune 13, 26/08/2017)

Policing Karachi

IN today's world where technology plays such an important role in creating conditions conducive to security and in helping solve crimes, it sounds like an idea with huge potential. The Sindh government is gearing up to launch a video surveillance project in Karachi that will involve the installation of 10,000 high-definition cameras across the city, so that footage can be used in the investigation of crime and the breakdown of law and order.

This is part of its so called Safe City project, which involves building public safety by improving the provincial government's capacity to respond in a variety of situations ranging from emergencies to traffic accidents and crime. At an estimated cost of Rs10bn, the new cameras are to be installed at 2,000 locations that have been identified after feedback from the police, intelligence agencies and the Counter-Terrorism Department.

Certainly, improved security is a desperate need in this city. Not only are crime rates sky-high, the violence is of myriad types and ranges from street crime to gang violence to rivalries between political parties. That said, a project of this nature has been implemented before but there has been little identifiable benefit. The Sindh police currently operate some 2,000 cameras that have been being installed since 2008 through various departments. Admittedly, these are only two-megapixel cameras (that are to be replaced by the high-definition ones), but some benefit from their use would have been a reasonable expectation.

The new project may help in increasing the capacity of law enforcement but it must not be forgotten that technology is only as good as the hands in which it is put. Further, bringing some sort of order to the ocean of chaos and crime that is Karachi involves many other steps being taken as well, from reducing the number of weapons on the streets to improving socioeconomic indexes to developing the city's tattered infrastructure. It can only be hoped that these aspects also command at least a part of the Sindh government's attention.
(Dawn, 08, 29/08/2017)

IG's cell gets over 450 complaints against police within two weeks

Within two weeks of its establishment to investigate alleged misuse of authority, high-handedness or financial corruption by law enforcers, the Sindh IG's complaint cell has received more than 450 complaints against police officials, said a senior officer on Monday.

The hundreds of complaints against officials ranking from constables to senior superintendent of police indicated growing public grievances against the law enforcers across the province, added the officer.

The staff at the complaint cell, which was working at the central police office, received enormous response from the people through text messages, phone calls, fax and emails.

The officer said each complaint had been responded to and forwarded to the relevant authorities for investigation and action.

Advertisement

"Within [two weeks], we have received some 450 complaints from all districts of Sindh," said Additional IG (Administration) Asad Raza who had been looking after the project as its head.

Complaints may be lodged against police officials all the way up to SSPs

“The complaints are different in nature but they all are against police officials of different cadres and of course they also include some senior officers as well. After checking and establishing the identification and basic details of the complainant and the complaint, we forward it to the DIG concerned for investigation and action.”

He said the cell was established on direct orders of Sindh IG A.D. Khowaja who himself was keen to establish a direct contact with people to learn about their complaints against the law enforcement agency to enhance its performance and build a better reputation.

Under the defined mechanism, he said, the complaint cell had prioritised its functions depending upon severity of the complaints. “We have divided the complaints into three categories — normal, urgent and prompt,” said AIG Raza. “The complaints, which are not of urgent nature and related to general working of the police, are referred to DIGs with directives to solve them within 15 days.

Secondly, there are urgent complaints which need to be fixed within a week and finally the prompt one is tagged with the directive to solve it within 24 hours.”

On Aug 24, IG Khowaja inaugurated the complaint cell where citizens can directly lodge complaints against police with the provincial police chief on helpline 9110 that has been functioning at the CPO since then.

The helpline is connected with all administrative divisions of Sindh police, said the police chief. The purpose behind the centre was to serve the public by addressing their grievances on a priority basis, he added. According to a police statement, the 9110 helpline is for citizens to lodge complaints against the SHOs for refusing to register an FIR, the investigation officers for not following a case properly, the policemen for keeping someone in illegal detention, demanding bribes or deliberately delaying legal work, the officials for booking any law-abiding citizen in a fake case or any officer lodging fake cases intentionally.

Such massive response from the people and a huge number of complaints against the police officials demands immediate revival of Provincial Public Safety and Police Complaint Commission (PPSPCC), which had been envisaged more than a decade ago but never materialised, an official said.

“The safety commission was supposed to look into the public complaints pertaining to alleged misuse of authority, dishonest investigation, negligence or inefficiency on the part of police personnel. Head of this commission had the authority to recommend proceedings against delinquent police personnel, including officers,” he added.

(By Imran Ayub, Dawn, 13, 05/09/2017)

Malala ‘attacker’ among four killed in Karachi

The police on Monday killed four suspected terrorists, including one allegedly involved in the 2012 attack on education crusader and Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai.



The four were killed during a raid, carried out on a tip-off, at Sadaf Society located in Sachal area of Karachi.

According to the police, the suspected terrorists opened indiscriminate fire when the police besieged the house they were holed up in. The police, however, managed to kill all of them.

Khursheed – a cousin of Maulvi Fazlullah, the fugitive chief of the defunct Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) – was later identified to be among the dead. Khursheed was allegedly involved in various terrorist activities including attacks on security forces as well as Malala.

Attack on Malala was staged, claims PTI MNA

“I am going to share good news with you that a cousin of TTP chief Maulvi Fazlullah has been killed,” said District Malir SSP Rao Anwar while talking to the media at the encounter site.

“Khursheed was involved in various incidents of terrorism, including attacks on education activist Malala Yousafzai as well as military and police in Karachi’s Quaidabad area,” Anwar said. “All the militants were members of the TTP-Swat and were planning to carry out terrorist activities in the city.”

Sachal SHO Shakir Ali said the police identified Khursheed with the help of the documents recovered from his possession. “The police are also trying to identify the remaining terrorists killed in the encounter,” he added.

Bodies of the suspects were later shifted to Edhi morgue. The police claimed that they also recovered arms and ammunitions from their possession. Further investigation was under way.

On October 9, 2012, a Taliban gunman opened fire at Malala and two other girls while they were returning home from school in Swat area of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P).

TTP group involved in attack on Malala busted

The bullets critically injured Malala, who remained unconscious and in critical condition at Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology. Later, she was sent for further treatment to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, United Kingdom, where she recovered and has been living since.

Malala, the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate, is known for her human rights advocacy, especially education for women in her native Swat, where the Taliban had banned girls from attending school during their brief rule in 2009.

(By Faraz Khan, The Express Tribune, 01, 05/09/2017)

Sindh IG’s complaints cell

THE fact that police in Sindh acts as a handmaiden of a corrupt and power-hungry ruling elite is one that citizens have long had to live with. The response to the complaint cell set up recently by IG Sindh A.D. Khowaja gives some idea of the extent to which people in the province suffer from the law enforcers’ excesses. As reported in this paper, more than 450 complaints across the province have been received in the two weeks since the cell was established to investigate alleged misuse of authority and financial corruption by police. Given that awareness about this mechanism is not yet widespread, this is likely only the tip of the iceberg. The complaints, received through text messages, phone calls, faxes and emails, implicated officers across the spectrum, from constables to SSPs, and — according to staff manning the cell — have been forwarded to the relevant authorities for investigation.

The deluge of complaints is scarcely surprising when one considers that the law-enforcement agency functions under an outdated law dating from 1861. Aside from a plethora of shortcomings, this colonial piece of legislation mentions neither the police’s duties to the community nor even the term ‘custodial torture’. Instead, it envisages the force as a body entirely unaccountable to the people it is policing. With the promulgation of the Police Order 2002, it seemed that the police would finally evolve along more modern lines.

Aside from measures against politicisation of the force, it encouraged police-community cooperation and mandated the setting up of public safety commissions to prevent violation of fundamental rights by police, including “rape, death or serious injury to anyone in police custody”. However, after the 18th Amendment, the PPP-led Sindh government revived the Police Act 1861. A complaint cell is thus a welcome step to bridge the gap between the people and the police. That said, the Sindh government’s deliberate and ill-intentioned curtailment of the IG’s powers may mean that the public’s voice remains a cry in the wilderness.

(Dawn 08, 06/09/2017)

SHC decision in IGP Khowajas appointment case today

The legal wrangling between civil rights campaigners and the provincial government over the posting of A.D. Khowaja as provincial police chief is likely to come to an end on Thursday (today) when the Sindh High Court would pronounce its judgement on his appointment.

Headed by Justice Munib Akhtar, a two-judge bench had on May 30 reserved the verdict on a set of petitions against the government's move to replace IGP Khowaja after hearing final arguments from the petitioners' lawyer and the provincial government's chief law officer.

The provincial government's decision to remove Khowaja from his post has been seen by some as the PPP's strategy for the upcoming general election.

In April, the Sindh government had sent Khowaja packing after it appointed another Grade-21 police officer, Sardar Abdul Majeed Dasti, already working in the province, in his place.

The Sindh government had said it was "surrendering" Khowaja's services to the federal government and appointed Additional IG Dasti as the IGP till "appointment/posting of [a] regular incumbent by the Establishment Division".

However, the SHC on April 3 suspended the provincial government's notification for Khowaja's removal. The Sindh government alleged that the petition being heard by the court was filed in collusion by the original petitioner, IGP Khowaja and the federal government "to show the provincial government in a bad light".

During the hearings of the petitions, IGP Khowaja offered to leave his post, telling the SHC through his counsel that doing his job had become increasingly difficult under the current circumstances as he has been facing increasing hostility from political quarters, with the provincial government keen to send him packing as soon as possible.

However, the SHC refused to let Khowaja relinquish his post and maintained its stay on his removal till it deliberates the matter.

Earlier in December 2016, the IGP was sent on "forced leave" by the provincial government.

Civil rights campaigners moved the SHC against the decision and subsequently the SHC restrained the Sindh government from sending him on forced leave.

According to the petitioners, the IGP was sent on a "forced leave" on Dec 19 because the Sindh government was "unhappy" with him over several issues relating to the recruitment of constables and suspension of police officers.

Born in a family of traders in Tando Mohammad Khan, Mr Khowaja had assumed charge as IGP in March 2016 after the removal of then IGP Ghulam Hyder Jamali who had found himself at the centre of a National Accountability Bureau investigation into mismanagement of police funds.

(By Tahir Siddiqui, Dawn 07/09/2017)

AD Khawaja is here to stay

The Sindh High Court (SHC) dealt the provincial government a substantial blow on Thursday blocking the government's move to oust Sindh Inspector-General of Police Allah Dino Khawaja. The provincial top cop was reinstated till the completion of his three-year tenure.



The court quashed the provincial government's letters addressed to the establishment secretary unilaterally surrendering IG Khawaja's services to the Centre and giving additional charge of the post to AIG Abdul Majeed Dasti. It also set aside the Sindh cabinet's decision

backing these decisions.

The two-judge bench, headed by Justice Munib Akhtar, announced its verdict, which was reserved in May, after hearing arguments on two petitions filed by civil society groups against IG Khawaja's removal and seeking reforms in the police law. The petitions were filed by the Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research Executive Director Karamat Ali, the Urban Resource Centre and others.

"There is associated with the post of inspector general a term or tenure as set out in the Sindh Government Rules of Business, 1986. The term is part of the law of the land insofar as this province is concerned. It has mandatory and binding effect," ruled the court. "It must also, as explained herein above, be given due recognition by the federal government."

AD Khawaja removal case: Cabinet endorses provincial govt's decision to replace IG

The court ruled that the "the present incumbent of the post of inspector general is thereafter entitled, subject to what is said below, to have the benefit of the term associated with the post."

The judges considered in detail the manner in which the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) officers were to be appointed to the post of IG.

"Since the post of inspector general has a fixed term associated with it, the rule laid down by the Supreme Court in the Anita Turab case is applicable. Therefore, if at all an incumbent can be removed during the term that can only be for compelling reasons within the meaning of the rule," stated the bench.

Removal procedure

The court held that "if at all the provincial government [provincial cabinet] is of the view that the continuation in office of AD Khawaja, on account of his having been appointed on own-pay scale basis, is contrary to the law enunciated by the Supreme Court in the Ghulam Fareed case, and that this constitutes a compelling reason, it must follow the proper procedure in accordance with law, as explained in detail herein above".

The court declared that the procedure adopted by the Sindh government to surrender IG Khawaja's services to the Centre was contrary to the law. "Since the proper procedure has not been followed, the correspondence addressed by the provincial government to the federal government and the follow up notifications are quashed as being contrary to law and of no legal effect," it ruled.

It also set aside the provincial cabinet's decision endorsing the IG's removal

Violation of rules of business: Sindh govt issues show-cause notice to AD Khawaja Police reforms

The judges observed that there was a need for reforms in policing and the police force for law and order to be properly established, which is sine qua non for the rule of law and which, in turn, enables fundamental rights to be fully and properly enjoyed.

They observed that for fundamental rights to be effectively enforced in Sindh suitable directions can and should be given and appropriate orders made under Article 199 of the Constitution.

The judges noted that a problem identified by the petitioners is the rapid turnover in and bewildering rapidity with which postings and transfers are made in the police force at all levels.

The judges observed, "This farcical situation is wholly inimical to the stability of, and any meaningful performance by, the police". They said autonomy of command and independence of operation in the police force is required to address the issue.

While disposing of the petitions, the judges declared that the legislative competence of the police was in the exclusive provincial domain. They declared that the Sindh (Repeal of the Police Order, 2002 and Revival of the Police Act, 1861) Act, 2011 is intra vires the Constitution and that the Police Act, 1861 as revived and restored by the said Act, is the law in force in the province, not the Police Order, 2002.

Govt withdraws IG's transfer and posting powers

The court directed the respondents, provincial government and federal government bodies to “give full and immediate effect to the orders made and directions given in this judgment and to act only in accordance and conformably with the same”.

They were further directed to give full and immediate effect to the court's orders and directions given in the judgment and to act only in accordance with the same.

The court also restrained the federal and provincial authorities from acting in any manner that is inconsistent with or contradicts any orders made or directions given in this judgment and from issuing, acting upon or giving effect to any circular, notification, guideline, instruction, order or direction that is inconsistent with, or contradicts, this judgment.

Police force inching closer to autonomy

In a judgement of far reaching consequences, the Sindh High Court came closer to granting operational and functional autonomy to the provincial police force to ward off the danger of political interference.

The bench ordered that the police hierarchy, acting through the IG, must have control of its own affairs, especially postings and transfers and that outside interference, whether by the provincial government or anyone else, must come to an end.

The judges observed that for purposes of giving directions and orders for enforcement of fundamental rights, the Police Act ought to be interpreted and applied by adopting the approach articulated by the House of Lords in the Ghaidan case, in applying the (UK) Human Rights Act, 1998. Sections 3, 4 and 12 of the Police Act in particular have been so interpreted and applied, keeping in mind that there must be autonomy of command and independence of operation in the police force.

I want to work within my limits: Sindh IG

Making specific reference to Section 12, the judges recalled that detailed directions had been given for the formulation of rules to properly regulate postings and transfers in the police force in accordance with the law. “Pending formulation and adoption of such rules, and with immediate effect, the power of transfers and postings in the police force, at all levels and including that of PSP officers, shall be exercised only by the inspector general, and any orders issued by him in this regard shall be self-executing,” ordered the bench.

The court then quashed the government's notification regarding postings and transfers as being contrary to the law. It also quashed all other such notifications or orders.

“[The IG's] role is a key and central one. His position is at the apex of the force,” held the judges. They cautioned that “any attempt therefore to side line or marginalise the IG or to circumvent him or to otherwise curtail his powers directly or indirectly would be contrary to the law”.

They further declared that “the command structure of the police hierarchy is clear”. It flows from, to and through the inspector-general, the bench said. “There can be no autonomy of command, nor independence of operation without this. If at any time the provincial government amends or alters the 1986 rules in relation to the term or tenure of the IG, such a term cannot under any circumstances be reduced to less than three years,” ruled the court.

(By Naeem Sahoutara, Tribune, 13, 08/09/2017)

Man jumps to his death in Awami Markaz blaze

At least two people lost their lives and one was gravely injured when a fire broke out in Awami Markaz, a six storey building in Islamabad on early Sunday morning.

Ali Raza and Umer Ejaz were both employees of Outpost Company, a call centre inside the building. Raza and Ejaz both jumped to save themselves. Raza could not survive



his injuries, while Ejaz was gravely injured and taken to Pakistan Medical Sciences' Burns Unit.

Waqar, the second victim, was a resident of Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir and was working as support staff at Atex Software Company. Waqar was inside the building when the fire broke out and passed away due to intense heat and suffocation from the smoke.

According to official accounts, fire fighters contained the blaze within an hour initially and seven fire tenders – out of which one had a sky lift and extendable ladder – were part of the rescue operation. The cause of the fire was said to be a short circuit in the federal tax ombudsman office, located on the ground floor.

Although the fire was extinguished, flames erupted for a second time, spreading rapidly to different floors. Pakistan Software Houses Association (PASHA) Chairperson Barkan Saeed told The Express Tribune that there were oversights that led to the fire becoming as colossal as it did.

1,400 new emergency staff join Rescue 1122

He added: "The fire has caused a lot of damage to the IT sector of Pakistan and the government has to assist companies so that they may continue operations." Notably Saeed added that no IT Park has fire safety procedures that comply with international standards.

Claims of oversight have been denied by Capital Development Authority (CDA) spokesperson Muzhar Hussain, who says that the fire was taken care of but during the cooling process strong winds started blowing that reignited the fire. Eventually firefighters from the Pakistan Navy and Rawalpindi Rescue 1122 also had to arrive on the scene to put out the blaze.

The worst affected offices in the building were the Federal Tax Ombudsman Office and Software Technology Park, whereby their records and equipment were burnt. Despite a heavy contingent of firefighters, the building was gutted and now faced risk of collapse because of the damage it has suffered.

An eight-member committee has been formed- led by the DC – to investigate the cause of the fire.

Catastrophic inferno: Horror before Eid

Awami Markaz CEO Talha Ahmed informed The Express Tribune that the building belonged to the ministry of industries and was run by the Industry Facilitation Centre, a subsidiary of the ministry. He added that 25 IT companies had their offices inside the building and approximately 1,000 people worked in it. Companies such as AQSA, FTO, Swati Cooperate, DPS, ORAtech, MOBI, SMART Company, Think Tech, EDS, TalcoJacks, NPO, Alfajar, Knowledge platform, PIDC and State Agency owned offices in the building.

It was also reported that records belonging to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were destroyed in the fire but a tweet from Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Nafees Zakaria laid these claims to rest. He clarified that there was a small research unit at the markaz which was digitally backed up at Planning, Development and Reforms Division, hence no data was lost.

(By Shahzad Anwar, The Express Tribune, 09, 11/09/2017)

IG to introduce fixed tenure for police officials

Sindh Inspector-General of Police Allah Dino Khawaja has been busy since being reinstated by the Sindh High Court on September 7. He has been using his recently granted autonomy to make changes in the police force.

The newest change is that a fixed tenure will be set for officers in the police department in a bid to eliminate corruption in transfers and postings. Station House Officers (SHOs) are likely to have a tenure of one-and-a-half years. This move will ensure stability and block SHOs from being transferred or removed prematurely without a compelling reason.

“While transferring any SHO, compelling reasons shall be recorded in writing and, in case of misconduct, departmental proceedings shall immediately be initiated against him or her. The SHOs removed due to compelling reasons shall not be reposted without written permission of the next higher authority,” reads the notification issued by Headquarters DIG Munir Ahmed Shaikh on behalf of the police chief. “Any premature transfer and posting of SHOs and reasons thereof shall be communicated to the range office,” it adds.

Sindh police witnesses massive reshuffle in hierarchy

“These orders have been issued by me. This will save the police from external influence and give confidence to hardworking officials. After formulating rules, we will submit it to government,” the IG told The Express Tribune.

Police stations in the city have been likened to a game of musical chairs, with SHOs being appointed for as little as a month before their inevitable transfers. “When I know that I will not be able to continue the job for more than a month despite paying at least Rs1 million [in bribes to obtain it] why would I work hard instead of just earning money?” asked a senior SHO of the Karachi range. “It’s very simple. The more you give, the more you earn,” he told The Express Tribune.

It has been learnt that SHOs are appointed on the basis of recommendations; these may come in the form of a political ‘safarish [influence]’ or through the payment of a hefty sum, depending on the scale of income the police station offers. For most police stations in the city, the minimum going rate is Rs500,000. This may vary depending on the area covered by the police station and may go as high as Rs2 million in some cases.

“The average period of appointment of an SHO in my experience is one month in Karachi,” said former IG Mushtaq Shah. “There are multiple reasons for this; mainly political influence and the bribery system.” Shah said that IG Khawaja is taking good steps and will definitely improve police performance.

Committee formed for transfer, posting of senior police officials

“What do you expect from an officer [SHO] appointed on the basis of bribes? He will definitely focus on the recovery of the hefty amount he paid for the post instead of controlling crime and improving his police station,” Shah explained. “But there will be better results after formulating the rules and fixing the tenure [of SHOs].”

IG Khawaja has already constituted a special police team comprising senior police officials to formulate the rules ahead of the transfer and postings of police officials following the court’s directives. A seven-member team has to submit a report to the IG next week. “Yes, we have almost prepared the draft and will submit it to the IG within the 10-day deadline,” confirmed one of the members of the team. “We are formulating the rules for each post, from top to the bottom. And each post will have its own tenure, like one-and-a-half years for SHOs.” He said that the IG will then present the draft before the Sindh Cabinet and, after getting approval, the report will be presented in court.

In Sindh, particularly in Karachi, there are no rules for the appointment of SHOs. The district police SSP suggests three names to the zonal DIG and then the zonal DIG recommends two names to the Additional IG of Karachi. Finally, the Additional IG selects one officer for the SHO’s post. In rare cases the Karachi AIG appoints SHOs.

“Unfortunately, there is no rule for transfers and postings and the police officers, particularly SHOs, are being transferred and posted on the basis internal arrangements,” explained the official.
(By Faraz Khan THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 16/09/2017)

Power politics leaves Karachi streets in darkness

Pakistan’s largest city, Karachi, is home to as many as 14.9 million people. There was a time when the metropolis was known as the city of lights for its vibrant nightlife.



A decade ago the provincial capital was thought to be the fastest developing metropolitan city in the country, with its administration setting new standards of progress and advancement for other cities around the country. But just after a decade the city's state of affairs present a completely different picture of what it once looked like.

The political tug-of-war among its managers coupled with bad governance has left Karachiites holding the short end of the stick.

Today, the streets of the country's premier industrial and financial centre paint a gloomy picture of its future. Among the plethora of issues, such as heaps of garbage, sewage and much more, being faced by the residents on a daily basis is the absence of proper lighting on the city's main thoroughfares. The city of lights has few functional lights — most of them remain on the blink due to a variety of reasons, adding to the countless miseries of Karachi's residents.



The street lighting provides numerous important benefits which include improved safety and security for the drivers, riders and pedestrians. Studies have shown that most crashes and fatalities occur during night time. Besides pedestrians and vulnerable road users suffer from decreased visibility in the dark.

"These [lights] never work so we have to make arrangements on our own to brighten up the place so that people stop here and buy fruit," said 18-year-old Muhammad Ashfaq, a roadside fruit vendor in Federal B Area. "From pedestrians to shopkeepers, everyone on both sides of the road gets affected by it but no one raises their voice," he lamented.



Due to lack of illumination on the streets road accidents have become quite frequent and women and children fear travelling down dimly lit streets, causing a significant drop in the sales of local businesses.

"There are so many road accidents occurring. With no lighting on the streets it has become so frequent that we see people getting injured almost every day," said Abdul Rehman, an elderly shopkeeper in Nazimabad.



Talking to *The Express Tribune*, other citizens shared similar views. Most fear travelling on the gloomy streets owing to rising incidents of street crime being reported. "I can't just risk my life by walking down a place where they [muggers] can easily target me," said a concerned resident of Yaseenabad.

Rulers trade barbs, pass the buck

When Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar was approached, he admitted that the responsibility of providing appropriate lighting on the streets rests with the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC). "I am well aware of this issue and we are working to resolve it with our limited resources," he assured.

He held his own employees responsible for the city's dilapidated situation, including the non-availability of streetlights in many areas.



"We have incompetent people who are never willing to work. I don't understand what the previous administrator was doing," he lamented.

Akhtar, however, partially shifted the blame of poor management of the city's state of affairs on the Sindh government, saying lack of interest on the part of provincial government was causing grave issues for the people of Karachi.

Criticising K-Electric (K-E), the mayor said, "There are issues with K-Electric as well, as sometimes the lights are turned off because of load-shedding in different areas."

Despite his grievances, Akhtar said local government officials had removed over 500 damaged lights which would soon be reinstalled after undergoing repair work at KMC's engineering department. "We can't purchase new lights because of the department's limited capacity," he explained.

The mayor agreed that the lack of sufficient lighting on the streets is one of the causes of rising street crimes and mishaps. "This definitely causes street crimes and accidents. It is in fact a matter of grave concern for law enforcers, as it affects the performance of the closed-circuit television [CCTV] cameras installed at various crossings in the city," he maintained.

More than half of the CCTV cameras installed by the city district government, Karachi police and Sindh's IT department are faulty, sources told *The Express Tribune*. "At the time of procurement, their quality was compromised. Some of them were even stolen from Lyari," sources revealed, adding that the cameras lacked night vision technology, making it almost impossible for law enforcers to identify suspects engaging in criminal activities at night.



Whenever electricity load-shedding is carried out in a locality, it results in an increase in the crime rate of that area, said a high-ranking police official. "In the absence of sufficient lighting it becomes increasingly difficult for the law enforcers to investigate it as our cameras lack night vision," the official said. "In fact these CCTV cameras are being handled by six different entities, including City Administration, Central Police Office, Traffic Police, Defence Housing Authority, Cantonment Board and private organizations," he explained, adding the entities had little or no coordination.

Meanwhile, speaking to *The Express Tribune*, Local Government Minister Jam Khan Shoro said the provincial government was not responsible for ensuring lights on the city's streets. "We [Sindh government] grant Rs800 to Rs900 million every year to them [KMC], therefore I don't think it's the responsibility of the provincial government to deal with an issue that falls under the domain of the local government head," he upheld. "It is very unfortunate that he [Akhtar] can't even address the issue of street lights, despite being the Karachi mayor for over a year," he said.



Power outages kill streetlights

There is currently no mechanism in place to stop streetlights from being turned off during area-wise power cuts being carried out by K-E due to shortage of electricity, the power utility company's spokesperson said.

"More than 60% of Karachi is exempt from routine load-shedding but a small fraction of the city is still facing the issue. However, we are working to improve our services in those areas," said Sadia Dada, the director of marketing and communications at K-E. "We have already been very supportive towards any move by the government to develop a mechanism to better facilitate the citizens of Karachi," she said, adding that the organisation was cooperating with town administrations as well as law enforcement authorities for better management of electricity-related issues. "We are always open to dialogue and collaboration."



Delving into the details of the organization's recently launched community building project 'Ujala', Dada said KE has initiated installation of kunda-resistant "aerial-bundled cable" (ABC) and distribution of low-cost metres to consumers to reduce power theft. "Our aim is to eliminate power theft while enhancing the reliability of power supply to our customers which will enable us to achieve our vision of a load-shed free Karachi," she said.

Finding a way out

Although there can be several possible ways to tackle this issue but it seems no one is ready to take the ownership of this derelict city, not even those who claim ownership of its politics and earn billions by milking the metropolis for the last penny possible.



Social activist and #Fixit campaigner Alamgir Khan said the simplest way to tackle the issue would be by empowering the local bodies at the lowest level. He was of the opinion that peoples' elected representatives should be given ample powers and resources, enabling them to resolve the issues of the masses. "Development work is carried out by the local government and this is how it happens around the world," he said. "In the past we also saw this happening in Pakistan. For instance, whenever local bodies were empowered; be it the administration of former mayor Mustafa Kamal or Naimatullah Khan, we saw the results," he said.



The city mayor agreed and went on to suggest that all stakeholders, including the provincial government and K-E officials, should be taken on board to devise a comprehensive plan to deal with the issue.

"We are ready to do everything we can for the betterment of the people."
(By Tashkeel Ahmed Farooqui THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 14, 20/09/2017)

Watchman dies in explosion at cosmetics warehouse in Karachi

A man was killed and another wounded in a mysterious blast inside a cosmetics warehouse in Nursery area on Wednesday morning. Though the administration of the godown claimed that it was an act of terrorism, as someone planted or threw an explosive at the godown, police investigators have ruled out the possibility of terrorist activity and believe it was an accident.



Panic gripped the area when a powerful explosion took place at a godown used to store chemicals used in the production of cosmetics. The godown was located in the basement of a multi-storey building in Block 6 of the Pakistan Employees Cooperative Housing Society (PECHS) within the limits of the Tipu Sultan police station.

The blast, which occurred before the fire spread, caused windows of nearby buildings to shatter and an adjoining wall of a school to collapse. People rushed out of their houses and offices in horror and the nearby school was evacuated.

The school administration said that their classes had just started when the explosion occurred. "It was a powerful explosion," said a teacher of the nearby school, Amir Siddiq. "We immediately evacuated the school to avoid any untoward incident, as we had no idea what had happened or what was going to happen," he narrated. "We were taking all the necessary measures to protect our children," he explained.

Panic and fear spread even more when the warehouse manager claimed that someone had targeted the warehouse with explosives. "It is 100% a terrorist activity," asserted the manager. "Everything in the storeroom remained safe. The blast did not occur inside but happened outside," he said.

Fire erupts in car workshop

Experts from the bomb disposal squad and Counter-Terrorism Department immediately reached the site to investigate the cause of the blast and subsequent fire. "We have examined the entire site but could not find any trace of explosive material, suggesting that [the incident] occurred due to the presence of chemicals inside the warehouse," explained an expert of the bomb disposal squad.

After the blast the building was engulfed by fire and fire tenders rushed to the site to douse the fire. The fire brigade spokesperson said that initially three fire tenders were rushed to the site, however, later more than a dozen fire tenders participated in the extinguishing work.

Chief Fire Officer Tehseen Siddiqui said that the godown also affected other floors and was doused after hectic efforts by the fire department. He said that 12 fire tenders and three water bowsers participated in the fire extinguishing work. Representatives of the city administration also reached the site and supervised the rescue work.

The rescue officials, however, later recovered a body from beneath the rubble as well as another worker who was injured. The victim was later identified as Salman Sarwar, who was a watchman at the warehouse. His wounded colleague was said to be in a stable condition.

Fire erupts in garment shop

Over a dozen workers are employed at the warehouse where cosmetics are made and stored. Police investigators, however, ruled the possibility of the terror activity or a short-circuit in the initial investigations. "So far, our investigations suggest that the incident occurred as an accident due to the presence of chemicals at the warehouse," said Gulshan division SP Ghulam Murtaza told The Express Tribune.

"Now the warehouse administration is trying to defend themselves, as they fear that they could be taken to task for negligence due to poor safety measures." The officer said that the number of casualties would have been higher if the blast had occurred a mere 10 minutes later. The blast occurred at 8:50am while the labourers usually begin work at 9am. SP Murtaza said that no case has been registered but vowed that a case would be registered against the warehouse owner and administration if evidence of their negligence was found.

National Trade Union Federation Information Secretary Mushtaq Ali Shan expressed grief over the reported death of the watchman. "The responsibility for this incident lies on the shoulders of the warehouse owner as well as the authorities," he commented.

This is not an isolated incident but a continuation of workers' killing at workplaces, he said, adding that the authorities should have awakened from their slumber after the Baldia factory fire incident and the Gadani oil tanker tragedy, as these were the deadliest disasters.

Baldia factory tragedy: Factory fire suspect requests bail from SHC

He claimed employers, authorities and labour rights watchdogs had made a criminal nexus to get away with the 'murders' they were committing for the sake of a mere financial profit. "Not only has the watchman died, but his family as well. Who will take care of his dependents now?" asked Shan.

"These incidents occur because no one bothers to implement labour laws and health and safety measures at workplaces," he lamented. "And to cover their crimes, they say it was fate. This is how they use religion for their interests."

Five injured in garment factory fire

Five workers were injured when a garment factory, reportedly illegally established in a three-storey residential building in Patel Para neighbourhood, caught fire on Wednesday.

Of the five, an unnamed worker jumped off the building in a bid to save his life while the four others, identified as Fawad, Shehroz, Yasir and Owais, fell unconscious after smoke filled the facility where garments were manufactured, police said.

Fire damages plastic, textile mills in Karachi

According to initial findings, the fire started at around 1:30pm in the warehouse situated on the ground floor of the building and rapidly engulfed the whole structure. Rescue workers faced difficulties due to narrow streets in which the fire brigade trucks could not easily enter. However, local residents aided the rescue workers in the extinguishment work.

According to the police, the factory was established a few months ago after the building was bought from the previous owner. The police are trying to locate the current owner of the building as, according to them, the incident seems to be a case of lack of health and safety measures.

(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 21/09/2017)

1,700 policemen on VIP security duty being withdrawn

The city police authorities have decided to withdraw around 1,700 personnel from security of senior officials, politicians and VIPs in order to enhance security of Muharram-related mourning processions and majalis, and to provide security to around 40,000 individuals of the Dawoodi Bohra community from over 40 countries who are in the city to attend the Ashra-i-Mubarak.

With the beginning of Muharram, the security administration is on its toes to meet the challenge, which is described by a senior police official as "one of the biggest in recent years" due to multiple activities taking place in the city at the same time.

"We are withdrawing most of them," additional IG Mushtaq Maher told Dawn.

"Even those providing security to me, Sindh IG and other police officers are being withdrawn to strengthen the police force for Muharram security. With this arrangement, we will be able to add around 1,700 policemen to our force in Karachi," he added.

Earlier, a report submitted to Sindh IG A.D. Khowaja said as many as 65,129 policemen were assigned for deployment across the province under the Muharram contingency plan.

A statement issued by the central police office said the report carried details of police deployment in different districts, including security arrangements in Karachi.

"IG Khowaja has directed all DIGs to personally review security arrangements for majalis venues, routes of large and small mourning processions, mosques and Imambargahs," said the statement.

The report further said that 2,914 vehicles, 7,939 personnel of reserve police and 9,444 pickets were part of the Muharram security plan for Sindh.

As many as 9,912 police officials in Karachi, 12,947 in the Hyderabad range, 4,211 in Mirpurkhas, 9,145 in Shaheed Benazirabad, 12,250 in the Sukkur range and 16,664 in the Larkana range will be on duty.

A senior official said this year's security challenge was much bigger than last year's as around 40,000 individuals of the Dawoodi Bohra community from over 40 countries had arrived in the metropolis to attend the Ashra-i-Mubarak.

The head of the Bohra community, Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, arrived in the city on Sept 14 to deliver a series of sermons exploring themes of justice, sacrifice, brotherhood and kindness.

"Most of the community's activities will be held in Saddar for which a detailed security plan has been put in place," he said.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn 17, 23/09/2017)

Two brothers among six killed in head-on collision

Around half a dozen people, including a girl and two siblings, were killed and three others critically injured when a pick-up van collided head on with a fast-moving truck on the Malir Link Road near Kathore Mor on Tuesday, said police and rescue workers.

The van was completely destroyed in the early morning accident, which was believed to have been caused after the van driver swerved the vehicle to avoid a deep pothole in the road.

The deceased were identified as 12-year-old Noman and his five-year-old brother; the van driver, Abdul Malik, 50, and 23-year-old Saima but the two other bodies remained unidentified, according to the area police.

“There is no eyewitness to the accident,” said Steel Town SHO Inspector Mujtaba Bajwa. “The people, police and rescue workers all reached the spot after the accident. But we have very strong reason to believe that the accident occurred due to a deep pothole in the main road, as the pick-up was moving on the same portion of the road.

“The driver of the van might not have been aware of this pothole and in an attempt to avoid it he might have swerved the vehicle that then collided with the truck coming from the opposite direction.” He said the truck driver managed to speed away following the fatal accident. The SHO said the area people called charity workers and the police for rescue.

“Our initial probe suggests that all the victims hailed from different parts of rural Sindh. They had come to Karachi on Monday and were on their way back home in a rented pick-up,” said SHO Bajwa.

“We had to call heavy machinery at the site of the accident to [extract] the bodies. The parts of the van were finally cut with the help of the machinery and the bodies were retrieved. They were later shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities. Following the autopsy, the bodies were shifted to the Edhi morgue.

“Later, the families of four of the deceased identified them and took away their bodies, while the remaining two bodies have yet to be identified.”

Three other passengers, who were critically injured in the accident, also remained unidentified. They were under treatment at the JPMC, the police said.
(Dawn, 17, 13/09/2017)

324 held, 294 cases registered in drive against gutka sale, SHC told

The Sindh High Court on Friday was informed by the provincial police chief that 324 persons had been arrested and 294 cases registered in the ongoing crackdown on the manufacture and sale of gutka, mainpuri and other harmful items on the court’s directives.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice Munib Akhar was hearing a constitutional petition of a concerned citizen, Mohammed Rashid Khan, who sought measures against the manufacture and sale of gutka and mainpuri.

On Friday, in compliance with the court’s earlier order, the police department filed a detailed report on the matter.

The SHC had earlier directed the inspector general of police, Sindh, to file his reply on the rejoinder of the petitioner, who alleged that the hazardous gutka was still being manufactured and sold openly in the city, especially in parts of District West, under the patronage of police and officials of the provincial and city administrations.

Complying with the court’s directives, additional inspector general of Karachi on behalf of IG A. D. Khawaja submitted a report showing that the provincial police chief had ordered strict action against the manufacture and sale of gutka.

The report said that from August till date 324 persons involved in making and selling of these harmful items were nabbed and 294 cases were registered against them.

“The crackdown against these sub-standard items is still continuing.” The petitioner had filed the rejoinder to the comments filed by the senior superintendent of police (West) who had denied the manufacture and sale of gutka in the district.

In his rejoinder, the petitioner submitted that he had moved three applications to district West police seeking action against the manufacture and sale of gutka in Surjani Town, Orangi Town, Baldia Town and other areas.

“However, no action was taken against the menace and manufacturing units were openly operating in the whole district,” he said.

He asked the court to direct the respondents to take effective action against the culprits involved in running a gutka manufacturing factory in Ghaziabad, Orangi Town’s Sector 11 1/2.

The petitioner also sought disciplinary action against the officials involved in patronising the menace in the city.

The bench put off the hearing to a date to be later pronounced by the court’s office.

Case against police officials

Meanwhile, another two-judge bench directed the investigators to place on record the details of bank account of Head Constable Mohammed Rafiq who had allegedly got Rs50million funds for fuel charges debited in his account by senior police officers.

A two-judge bench was hearing the acquittal plea of Assistant Inspector General (finance) Fida Hussain who along with other senior officers was booked by NAB for allegedly misappropriating funds released for Muharram security arrangements.

It was alleged that the senior police officers had misappropriated Rs50million and deposited the same into Head Constable Mohammed Rafiq’s account. The bench put off the hearing till Nov 9. (Dawn 18, 23/09/2017)

Sindh High Court orders arrest of SSP East



The Sindh High Court (SHC) issued on Tuesday warrants for the arrest of the District East senior superintendent of police (SSP) for failing to appear in a case relating to the alleged illegal construction of a police station on private land.

A two-judge bench, headed by Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, directed the East DIG to arrest and produce the East SSP for defying the court’s directives for his personal appearance in court.

The SHC issued these directives while hearing a petition against the alleged illegal construction of the Bahadurabad police station on private land. The petitioner, Haq Nawaz, had approached the court against the provincial home secretary, IG, East DIG, East SSP and Bahadurabad SHO.

SHC directs Nawabshah commissioner to ensure no civil servant works as journalist

The petitioner informed the judges that he was given ownership of a land of 300 square yards by the concerned authorities after fulfilling all the legal formalities and payment of the requisite fee. However, the police encroached upon the private land and set up Bahadurabad police station in violation of the rules.

The petition was filed back in 2009, but senior police officials have been avoiding appearing in court despite the issuance of repeated orders. The court was pleaded to order the relevant authorities to demolish the illegally constructed police station and retrieve the petitioner’s land.

In the last hearing, the bench had issued a notice to the East SSP, ordering him to appear in person to answer the court’s queries. However, the officer was absent when the court took up the matter on Tuesday.

SHC issues notices to LEAs against alleged detention of builder

A police official informed the court that the SSP was not feeling well, requesting to excuse his absence. However, the judges took exception to the officer's truancy and ordered to issue a warrant for his arrest. The bench directed the East DIG to produce the officer on the next date of hearing.

Restoration of playground

Meanwhile, the same bench directed the Cantonment Board Clifton Director Dr Sajjad Ahmed to immediately restore a playground in Punjab Colony where garbage was being dumped allegedly to usurp the amenity land.

The court also sought a reply from the officer on an application seeking contempt of court proceedings for not removing the garbage from the playground in question.

SHC extends bail of law minister

Modern Cricket Club had approached the court against the cantonment board's management alleging that it had deliberately started dumping garbage on a portion of the ground so that it can be encroached upon. It was argued that the amenity plot could not be used for any other purpose other than what it was originally allocated for.

In the last hearing, the petitioner had moved an application seeking contempt proceedings against Dr Ahmed who allegedly did not implement the court's directives for removing garbage piles and restoring the portion of the ground.

Appearing on the court's notice, Dr Ahmed informed that the garbage was being dumped at the playground for the last 40 years. He denied that the land was deliberately turned into a dumping ground so that it could be illegally occupied.

Inquiry ordered into lack of facilities at schools in four districts

The judges ordered that the subject portion of the playground be restored to its original position whether the garbage was being thrown there for the last 40 years or 400 years.

Adjourning the hearing date to be notified later, the bench also directed Dr Ahmed to submit his reply to the contempt of court petition. (The Express Tribune, 15, 13/09/2017)

Police await families' go-ahead to register FIR

The bodies of the three labourers, two of whom were brothers, who lost their lives while working at a factory in Korangi on Saturday, were sent to their hometown for burial on Sunday.



The labourers died after falling into the chemical tank of a fish processing unit in Korangi neighbourhood, within the limits of the Zaman Town police station, on Saturday night. The victims were later identified as 30-year-old Bahadur, 40-year-old Bahadurullah and 35-year-old Bale Ji. Rescuers from different welfare organisations immediately reached the site and initiated rescue work, but the victims perished shortly after falling into the tank. Their bodies were shifted to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities and later handed over to their families.

"Two of them were brothers," said their colleague Imran Ali. "At first Bahadur slipped into the chemical tank and the others fell in while trying to rescue him."

Three Karachi labourers die after falling into chemical tank

There were reports that claimed two more labourers fell into the tank, however, officials denied such news, saying that only three labourers had fallen and died. Some labourers claimed that the victims died after falling into the tank when their ladder snapped. "They were working there and suddenly the ladder slipped and one of them fell into the tank," said a labourer at the factory.

The victims belonged to Gilgit and had been working at the factory for the past year. Bahadur and Bale Ji were brothers, while Bahadurullah was their relative. Their bodies were dispatched to their hometown for burial.

The police have yet to register a case over the incident, as officials say they are working to locate the victims' families to register the case. Zaman Town SHO Malik Ashfaq confirmed that no case has been registered. "The families of the victims said they will approach us after discussing the matter within the family after the burial," he explained.

Labourer killed, four injured in fire incident

This is not the first time labourers in Karachi have lost their lives by falling into chemical tanks at factories. In a similar incident in July, four labourers died while another was rescued when they fell unconscious while cleaning a tank in a factory located on the outskirts of the city in Bin Qasim Town. The labourers died after inhaling chemical fumes inside the tank of the under-construction chemical factory near Ghaggar Phatak.

Last year, at least five people died at a factory in Korangi, indicating a gross violation of safety measures and Sindh's social security rules.

National Trade Union Federation Information Secretary Mushtaq Ali Shan expressed grief over the deaths and said that the authorities concerned should take notice of such incidents, as a number of labourers have lost their lives in similar incidents in the past. He said that there are labour laws but there is no implementation in our country.

To avoid such incidents, the authorities concerned should implement the labour laws and carry out inspections, he suggested.

"Around 90% of the factories in Karachi do not give appointment letters to their labourers to avoid appointing them on a permanent basis. The labourers should be appointed on permanent basis so that they can establish labour unions to raise their voices for labourers' rights," he said. "Until the establishment of union bodies at these factories, implementation of labour laws will remain a dream."
(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 25/09/2017)

Security for Muharram: LEAs sift through guest houses of metropolis

In order to avoid any untoward terror activity, particularly during the central processions of Muharramul Haram, law enforcement agencies have started conducting security survey of the guest houses, musafir khanas and hotels, particularly en route the central processions, *The Express Tribune* learnt on Tuesday.



The police have launched a search operation at guest houses and bus terminals on the route of the mourning processions.

"Yes, we have started security survey of the guest houses, musafir khanas and hotels to take security measures ahead the upcoming central processions in Muharram," District South police chief SSP Javed Akbar Riaz told *The Express Tribune*.

Maintaining peace: 'Police to ensure four-tier security during Muharram'

More than 300 guest houses, musafir khanas and hotels are in the city, including Saddar, Cantt Station, Aram Bagh, Soldier Bazaar, Kharadar, Lyari, Lines Area, Sohrab Goth, Banaras, Lea Market, Malir, Landhi and Korangi. Majority of them are located in District South.

Police officials said that they have conducted searches at various guest houses and gathered the data of the people staying there, adding that the people who failed to produce their identification papers are being detained for further questioning. "Each police station is responsible for conducting its own security survey as effective intelligence will help police check suspects," said SSP Riaz.

Minister directs hospitals to stay alert during Muharram

The police officials concerned have also been directed to ensure that no house owner would give their place to tenants without informing the concerned police station while in case a tenant is involved in terrorist activities, the house owner, guest house owner or hotel owner would face similar charges.

A warning will be given to property dealers and owners of hotels and guesthouses if they are not keeping a record of their new tenants and guests, whereas departmental action will also be taken against the SHO concerned. "Without keeping a complete record of new tenants or guests, no room or place should be rented out to any newcomer without verifying his or her original computerised identity card," Riaz explained.

The guest houses administration said that they are cooperating with the law enforcement agencies. "We are already cooperating with the law enforcement agencies," said Muhammad Hashim, a manager at a local guest house in Saddar area. "This practice is going on for the last three years and we also shared the record of the guests with the police."

Plot to carry out terror attack in Bahawalnagar during Muharram foiled

On the other hand, police is likely to close all the roads leading to Karachi's main traffic artery, MA Jinnah Road, with containers for the security of the mourning processions on Muharram 8, 9 and 10. The city's central mourning procession will pass through MA Jinnah Road and conclude at Imambargah Hussainian Iranian in Kharadar. The city authorities will also seal the shops on the route of the Muharram processions for three days due for security purposes.

The traffic flow on MA Jinnah Road will completely halt ahead of the arrival of the procession. The traffic will be diverted to alternative routes. Stringent security measures have been taken for the security of the mourning processions and to avoid any untoward incident.

Although pillion riding will be banned for three days, the authorities concerned are likely to suspend cellular service during the main Muharram processions.

1,520 imambargahs to be provided security during Muharram

The trader's community, however, expressed their reservations over sealing their shops. "We have some reservations over sealing our shops ahead of the central processions," said All Karachi Tajir Ittehad Chairperson Atiq Mir while talking to *The Express Tribune*.

Referring to last Muharram, Mir said that over two dozen of the shops which were sealed by the police at Empress Market ahead of the main processions had been looted by unidentified persons. "My concern is, either the police will keep their eyes on criminals or we will keep our eyes on police," he said. "If the police is sealing the shops for at least three days, it should ensure that our shops will remain safe."

(By Faraz Khan THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 27/09/2017)

'Knife attacks on women' in Gulistan-i-Jauhar set off manhunt

As fears gripped Gulistan-i-Jauhar residents following media reports of alleged knife attacks on women in the neighbourhood, the police on Thursday claimed to have launched a manhunt for an 'armed motorcyclist', who had allegedly left over half a dozen women injured within the last few days while three of the victims turned up to report the case to police, officials said.

Although the police authorities were not sure about the exact number of incidents and the motive for the attacks, they confirmed that the incidents reported by most news channels about the assaults did take place in different blocks of Gulistan-i-Jauhar.

About the exact number of such cases, the police said that not more than three victims had approached the police with complaints that a 'knife-carrying lone motorcyclist' had attacked them from behind.

"We have registered three FIRs — two at the Sharea Faisal police station and one at the Gulistan-i-Jauhar police station — about two incidents in which three women were stabbed with a sharp weapon by a lone motorcyclist," said Gulshan-i-Iqbal SP Ghulam Murtaza Bhutto.

Speaking to Dawn, the officer said that the three knife attacks took place on Monday.

However, a local hospital administration in Gulistan-i-Jauhar told the police that they had also received one woman injured by some sharp instrument on Tuesday.

The police initiated investigation into these attacks.

"The police have launched a manhunt by deploying officers in plain clothes," said the Gulshan SP.

The officer said that the police have got some clues.

The Sharea Faisal police have registered an FIR (489/2017) on complaint of Raza Mohammed under Sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 337 (Shajjah: whoever causes on the head or face of any person, any hurt) of the Pakistan Penal Code against unidentified suspect.

The complainant in his statement before the police said that his wife, Hina Raza, along with her friend Ms Shahida Perveen left home on Monday to buy something in Gulistan-i-Jauhar when a motorcyclist attacked them from behind with a sharp instrument causing minor injuries to them.

In another FIR (479/2017) registered at the Gulistan-i-Jauhar police station under the same Sections of the PPC, the complainant, Hajira, told the police that on Sept 26, she had left a home in Chishti Nagar of Gulistan-i-Jauhar when a motorcyclist attacked her from behind with a knife and fled. She worked as a domestic helper in the same area.

IGP of Sindh A. D. Khowaja had already ordered DIG East Sultan Ali Khowaja to conduct a detailed inquiry into these incidents and submit a report to him.

Quoting SSP East Samiullah Soomro, officials said, three injured women were brought to a local private healthcare facility for treatment in the past two days.

He said the injured women were approached by the local police, but they refused to register complaints.

Meanwhile, adviser to the Sindh chief minister on social welfare Shamim Mumtaz on Thursday took notice of the alleged attacks on women and asked the police to arrest the culprits involved in the incidents immediately, officials said.

Officials in the social welfare ministry said that Ms Mumtaz in presence of the chairperson of the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, Nuzhat Shireen, telephoned the Karachi East's senior superintendent of police directing him to find out the real motives behind such incidents.

(Dawn 18, 29/09/2017)

Court orders immediate action against sale of gutka in Karachi

The Sindh High Court (SHC) directed on Wednesday the inspector-general of police (IGP) and the director of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation's (KMC) anti-encroachment department to take immediate action against stalls selling gutka – a chewing form of tobacco highly hazardous to health – in the city.

A two-judge bench, headed by Justice Munib Akhtar, also directed the heads of the police force and KMC anti-encroachment cell to submit their reports regarding compliance with the court's order by November 9.

The bench passed these directions while hearing a petition against the manufacturing and sale of gutka and mainpuri in the city.

The petitioner, Muzammil Mumtaz, had taken the provincial police and health departments and the KMC authorities to the court for their alleged failure to take action against the manufacturing and sale of gutka and mainpuri.

Gutka addiction takes city by storm

The petitioner had contended that the two tobacco products, known to be seriously injurious to health, were being openly manufactured and sold in the city without any check by the authorities concerned. Requesting the court to order the authorities to take action against sale of gutka and mainpuri, Mumtaz argued that the respondents were duty-bound to stop such businesses that play with the health of the people.

On Wednesday, the petitioner informed the SHC that the courts had given directives to the authorities in the past to act against those involved in the manufacture and sale of gutka and mainpuri but the business was still going on. There were stalls illegally set up on footpaths all over the city, selling these products openly, Mumtaz said. He also alleged that gutka sale was continuing under the patronage of the local police.

The petitioner pleaded to the court that the ban on sale and manufacturing of these products could not be effectively enforced until removal of the stalls. He requested the court to direct the police and anti-encroachment departments to remove the illegal stalls.

In the meantime, a report on the action against the manufacturers and sellers of gutka and mainpuri was submitted before the court on behalf of the IG. The report stated that 200 cases were registered against persons allegedly involved in the gutka and mainpuri business. The judges, however, expressed their dissatisfaction over the report, observing that it failed to show any concrete action taken by the police.

Court wants update on Sindh Healthcare Commission

The bench directed the IG and KMC anti-encroachment department director to take an immediate action against those selling gutka, mainpuri and other such tobacco products that were highly hazardous to the residents. The court also asked them to submit reports by November 9 regarding the implementation of the order.

Another petition

Last week the IG informed the court that the existing law was insufficient to curb the manufacture and sale of gutka. The petitioner in that case, Rashid Khan, had sought a ban on the manufacture and sale of gutka

Filing his report on action against manufacturers and dealers of gutka, the IG informed the court that 147 cases had been registered and 212 suspects arrested by the police across the province.

Health services: Staff urged to resolve public complaints

However, he argued that the existing law was insufficient to curb this business in an effective manner. He argued that under the relevant sections of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) the accused could only be awarded a six-month imprisonment if found guilty of manufacturing, possessing or selling gutka.

The police chief explained that there was no separate law to curb the business of gutka and mainpuri in the province.

Heading the two-judge bench, Justice Akhtar observed that the matter involved in the petition was of a serious nature, as it related to the health of the public at large. He stated that no dereliction towards this issue could be tolerated.

The bench had directed the provincial law officer to submit a report as to what measures were being taken to curb the business, manufacture and sale of gutka and mainpuri in the province. (THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 05/10/2017)

Sindh police's jailbreak probe body recommends removal of IG prisons

Holding senior jail officials responsible for the June 13 escape of two militants of the outlawed Lashkar-i-Jhangvi from the Karachi Central Prison, a Sindh police inquiry committee has recommended immediate removal of prison administration, including the inspector general of prisons, it emerged on Wednesday.

"Flagrant violation of rules and regulations, control of administration work by UTPs [undertrial prisoners] and other lacunas pointed out in inquiry speak volumes about inefficiency, lack of supervision and loose administration of Inspector General Prison in addition to other officers pointed out in the inquiry," said the inquiry report. "It is, therefore, suggested that IGP Prison should be changed immediately."

The inquiry was conducted by Additional IG Crimes Branch Dr Aftab Ahmed Pathan into the escape of two LJ militants — Shaikh Mumtaz alias Firaun and Ahmed Khan alias Munna. They were arrested by the Counter-Terrorism Department in 2013 for their alleged involvement in killing 60 people, including members of Shia community and law enforcement agencies.

New inquiry report says CTD 'fully exposed' jail officials' criminal negligence

The inquiry body also warned that the incident failed to serve as a wake-up call for the authorities as the "illegal practice" continues inside the jail premises unabated, allowing UTPs to meet "outsiders freely".

The Sindh home department had appointed Mr Pathan to conduct an inquiry into the jailbreak and ascertain the role of investigation officer DSP Zahid Hussain who was accused of making a weak case against jail officials and personnel.

The inquiry, however, exonerated the IO from charges of any negligence and Mr Pathan observed that the IO fully exposed the criminal act of over a dozen jail officials.

Security lapse at prison

Pointing out "security lapses" at all levels from keeping the UTPs in their barracks and their production before the antiterrorism courts, the report stated that the jail authorities "remained unaware of the escape of both the terrorists for about 18 hours".

It added that they came to know about their escape when the UTPs were called by the ATC on June 14. "This situation shows that the senior jail officers were in nexus with the lower staff especially junior clerk Yasir, head clerk Rafiq Channa and ASJ Kamal Shah in the escape of both terrorists."

The Crimes Branch chief, who paid a visit to the Karachi Central Prison on Sept 29, stated in his report that he observed that "outsiders" used to meet the escapees freely on the ATC premises, which was in violation of Section 692 of Jail Manual.

He said that the illegal practice of meeting UTPs by outsiders in the ATC still continued.

Highlighting the role of individual jail officials with "exhausting" observations, Mr Pathan said that they were responsible for keeping the UTPs of barracks No. 25 and 26 in safe custody but they "failed to do their job and as a result both the high-profile terrorists escaped".

During his visit to the newly constructed ATC inside the prison, he also “found the movement of UTPs without handcuffs which was against Section 662 of the Jail Manual as the movement of high-profile terrorists without handcuffs was very dangerous and can result in a similar incident of jailbreak in future”.

Overcrowding in Karachi prison

Mr Pathan also suggested several corrective measures in jails to prevent occurrence of similar incidents in future.

He stated that against the original strength of 2,400 prisoners, the Karachi Central Prison housed about 6,000 prisoners.

He recommended that in order to overcome the issue of overcrowding, a new prison should be constructed.

The inquiry proposed that UTPs should not be made in charge of “head counting” and production of prisoners in court. They should be treated in accordance with the Jail Manual and the administration work should not be given to them.

Besides, the prison department should immediately recruit fresh constables and other employees so that they can manage administration properly. Similar recruitment should be done in other prisons of the province if required.

The inquiry report said that as a policy matter a PSP officer (grade-20) should be posted as IG Prisons and DIG Prisons.

Likewise, PSP officers should be appointed as jail superintendent of central prisons in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 17, 05/10/2017)

Serial attacker strikes fear into hearts of Karachi’s women

Thirteen-year-old L* was a mere 20 feet from her family, near her home, when a tall, slim man wearing white shalwar kameez approached her on his motorcycle, stabbed her and escaped.

L is the one of the latest victims in a series of attacks on women in Karachi, particularly in parts of Gulistan-e-Jauhar and Gulshan-e-Iqbal, which have stumped the entire police force.

But L’s attack left the police puzzled, as it was different from the previous ones reported in the area. Investigators suspect that a copycat may have attacked the young girl, as they believe that the main serial attacker usually wears jeans and a shirt with a helmet to cover his face and is between 25 and 30 years old. His height has been estimated at between 5’7 and 5’9 and he usually rides a red motorcycle. They believed he was the sole attacker behind most of the attacks.

“It would be too terrible if other people join him or starts such activities,” fretted PIB Colony SHO Safdar Mashwani. “But it seems that the man who attacked L was not the same as the other attacker, as he wore shalwar kameez, no helmet and had a different body type.”

L came under attack at around 11:45pm on Wednesday night in Bajauri Muhalla in PIB Colony. Usually, the previous incidents occurred in one side of Gulshan-e-Iqbal – Rashid Minhas Road, Dalmia and Gulistan-e-Jauhar – but this incident occurred on the opposite side of the locality.

Another woman stabbed in Karachi as ‘knifeman’ remains at large

“It was getting dark and we were walking home when my daughter was stabbed in her shoulder,” said L’s father. “It happened so quickly. Before we could understand what happened or do anything, the man had escaped.” In some cases, the victims attempted to catch the attacker but unfortunately the man, known as ‘chalawa’ has not been caught so far.

H, who works as a housemaid, was the first victim. She was attacked when she was returning from work in Gulistan-e-Jauhar. "He visited the street twice before attacking me but I didn't notice as when he attacked me I had no idea," she narrated. "I tried to catch him but he slashed my elbow to get away. I even shouted for help but before anyone could come he had fled."

The arrest of the serial attacker or attackers has become a challenge situation for the Karachi police, since the first incident on September 26. Since then nearly a dozen similar cases have been registered. Though the investigators have recorded the statements of the victims, obtained the closed-circuit television footage and enhanced security measures such as increasing the network of plainclothes personnel, snap-checking and patrolling, officials have failed to trace and arrest the attacker. "In 10 days, more than a dozen women have become his victims," said a senior police official privy to the matter. "It is an alarming situation for all of us as at least six women become victims in nearly one hour and we could not even trace him, despite increased snap-checking on the roads."

Three cases registered against 'psychopathic' attacker

Officials said that most of the incidents occurred in the early and late evening. "He is not targeting women or girls belonging to one specific category – he is targeting all types of women. For him, every woman is a potential victim, he does not care if they belong to the upper or middle class," he explained. Investigators say the attacker has managed to elude the police by changing his clothes or motorcycle cover twice since the series of attacks began. The police have yet to find clues about the motivation or identity of the attacker, who is still at large despite the police having detained over half-a-dozen suspects.

Latest incident

A 28-year-old woman is the latest victim to have been attacked by the motorcyclist. She was attacked near Pehlwan Goth in Gulistan-e-Jauhar late Thursday night. Initial reports stated that the same attacker was behind the incident.

Police said that in this instance the woman was attacked from the front, whereas the attacker's modus operandi has always been to attack his victims from behind. Interestingly, the woman also attempted to catch the suspect, however, he attacked her again with a sharp-edged object and managed to escape. The woman was immediately taken to a nearby private hospital for treatment. The police have also obtained CCTV footage of the incident and initiated further investigations.

The recent attack has disproved the police's claims of an intelligence network close to tracing and arresting the culprit.

*Names withheld to protect victims' identities

(By Faraz Khan THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 06/10/2017)

Committee set up on SHC order frames police transfer, posting rules

A committee constituted by Inspector General of Sindh Police A. D. Khowaja last month in compliance with an order of the Sindh High Court has prepared rules for posting of police officers from station house officer to additional inspector general /deputy inspector general of police for a fixed tenure and under the said rules it has also been recommended that a board is constituted at zone/range level to evaluate performance of field police officers biannually for possible premature transfer, Dawn has learnt.

The provincial police chief established the body in compliance with an SHC order dated Sept 7 to frame rules for transfer and posting of police officers.

The Sindh High Court, in its what has been perceived as a landmark judgment, declared that (as per contents of para 96 of the judgement) "the power of transfers and postings of police officers, at all levels, including PSP officers serving in the Sindh province, vests in the inspector general and is to be exercised by him in terms of rules or orders to be framed under Section 12 of the Police Rules, 1934".

Board to be constituted to evaluate performance of field officers on a biannual basis
The court had also ordered that new rules be prepared within 30 days and should be approved by the provincial cabinet.

Sources on Sunday told Dawn that the committee had prepared draft rules under Section 12 of the Police Rules, 1934, setting out the manner in which the IGP is to exercise the power of transfers and postings in the police.

The sources said that the committee comprising senior police officers had suggested that posting of police officers from assistant superintendent of police to additional inspector general or deputy inspector general of police should be fixed for two years. It has also been recommended that deputy superintendent of police or station house officer (SHO) is posted for one year only.

They would not be removed without fulfilling their tenure posting till 'compelling reasons' emerged for their premature transfer.

A senior police officer familiar with this development stated that compelling reasons in case of premature transfer had been defined as "serious charges of misconduct or corruption, etc", or going to training course, etc.

Apart from these host of "compelling reasons" for premature transfer, the draft police rules suggest that a board is constituted to evaluate performance of the field police officers.

The proposed board set up at additional IG level in Karachi and range level of DIG in other divisions of Sindh may recommend premature transfer of the field police officers in case of their less than satisfactory performance.

It has also been suggested in the draft rules that after enjoying two field postings, the officer should be transferred for "staff posting" to do some administration work or lead police training centre, etc.

This suggestion has been necessitated because existing practice has revealed that there are certain police officers who are regularly transferred from one district to another while some police officers continue to work at administrative posts.

One committee member stated that there were several police officers who tended to complain that they were not being given field posting.

The sources familiar with this development told Dawn that it had also been suggested in the proposed police rules that in case of promotion from one grade to another grade, the police officer concerned would not be given field posting immediately. Instead, the promoted officer has to work at administrative side for at least one year before being given field posting.

The provincial government had taken away powers of transfer and posting of police officers from the IGP and given the same to the home minister of Sindh following a 'tussle' between the provincial police chief and the political elites over a host of issues. After assuming such powers, the home minister had transferred several police officers across Sindh.

However, the SHC in its judgement declared void all such notifications issued since July 7.

Subsequently, at least 22 notifications issued by the services and general administration department regarding posting and transfer of police officers were withdrawn by IGP A.D. Khowaja in compliance with the judgement of the SHC.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 15, 09/10/2017)

Policemen booked for kidnapping citizen for ransom, court told

A sessions court was informed on Monday that some policemen were involved in abducting and keeping a man at a police station and a kidnapping for ransom case had been registered against them.

On the directive of the district and sessions court, a judicial magistrate (East) had raided the Ferozabad police station on Oct 7 and recovered Asad Abbas from wrongful detention after his family approached the court for his recovery.

The magistrate in his report submitted to the district and sessions court that he along with the applicant and his lawyer raided the police station and got the detainee released on a personal bond since there was no FIR against him and the daily dairy was also silent about his detention.

The magistrate had also bound the SHO and other officials to appear before the sessions court on Monday and also asked the applicant to ensure their attendance as well.

The suspects demanded a ransom of Rs2m for the detainee's release

When the matter came up for hearing before the district and sessions judge (East) on Monday, the SHO of the Ferozabad police station informed the court that an FIR under Sections 365-A (kidnapping or abduction for extorting property, etc) and 109 (abetment) of the Pakistan Penal Code was lodged against two policemen and their other accomplices at the Baloch Colony police station since the victim was picked up from Defence View.

According to the FIR, lodged on the complaint of the victim's brother, four policemen with two others in plainclothes "raided" the house of Asad Abbas on Oct 4 in Defence View and kidnapped him.

Thereafter, they demanded a ransom of Rs2 million against the release of the detainee. On Oct 6, they called relatives of the captive to the Ferozabad police station and asked them to hand over the ransom amount to a woman named Saima who was also present at the police station, it added.

The FIR further said that the victim's family sought time from the policemen for payment of ransom and on Oct 7 they moved a habeas corpus application under Section 491 of the Criminal Procedure Code before the district and sessions judge (East) for the recovery of the detainee.

The complainant has nominated constables Noman Arif Jatoi and Pervez, private suspects Saima and Syed Amir Shah and their three unknown accomplices in the FIR.

Meanwhile, police said that Pervez and Amir Shah were arrested while other suspects were still at large.
(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn 17, 10/10/2017)

Two police officials among four booked in kidnapping case

At least four people, including two police officials, were booked on Monday for their alleged involvement in a kidnapping for ransom case.

The officers and other suspects are accused of being involved in the kidnapping of a citizen, Asad Abbas. According to police, the suspects kidnapped Abbas, demanded ransom money from his family for his safe release and warned them of dire consequences if they approached the authorities.

The Baloch Colony police have registered FIR No 185/17 against head constable Pervez, East SSP's staff member Nouman and their alleged accomplices. Pervez and one of the other two suspects, Amir, have been arrested while the police are searching for others. According to the police, the accused police officers were running a gang and were involved in criminal activities.

Two policemen suspended for assaulting Karachi citizen after video goes viral

The abductee was recovered from the Ferozabad police station. Providing details of the case, Baloch Colony SHO Abdullah Bhutto said the police had registered a case on behalf of Abbas's brother Wajahat Hussain, who, in his recorded statement, claimed that his brother was kidnapped from Defence Housing Authority Phase-I on October 4 by police personnel in an official vehicle. The kidnappers demanded ransom of Rs2 million, he said.

Ferozabad SHO Shahzad Ilyas said the accused officers brought Abbas to the Ferozabad police station, claiming he had cheated them by paying them with cheques that bounced. "I discovered Abbas was innocent when I questioned him," SHO Ilyas said, adding that he then approached the Baloch Colony SHO who confirmed that Abbas's kidnapping case had been registered at his police station. Abbas was then released by the Ferozabad police.

(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 10/10/2017)

Uzair Baloch spills the beans

Gangster Uzair Baloch confessed to committing criminal activities in connivance with the Karachi police and political set-up in the province.



He made these revelations in a confessional statement recorded before a judicial magistrate which was submitted before a two-judge bench of the Sindh High Court (SHC) during hearing of a case relating to missing persons.

In his confessional statement, dated April 29, 2016, Uzair testified that he joined a gang led by Abdul Rehman alias Rehman Dakait in 2003 and was incarcerated in the Central Jail, Karachi where he was appointed incharge of the prisoners belonging to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on the recommendation of then jail superintendent Nusrat Mangan and PPP leader Faisal Raza Abedi.

In the statement available with The Express Tribune, Uzair disclosed that he assumed full-fledged command of the gang after Dakait was killed in an encounter in 2008 and formed an 'armed terrorist' group under the name of the Peoples Aman Committee (PAC) and became its chairperson.

Uzair Baloch nudges PPP into defensive mode

He confessed to have collected Rs20 million extortion from different persons and departments every month, adding that the fisheries department would pay Rs2 million.

He also disclosed that PPP MNA Faryal Talpur, sister of party co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari, was given Rs10 million extortion every month. According to the alleged gangster, Dr Saeed Baloch and Nisar Morai were posted to the fisheries department on his recommendation.

"I maintained a friendly relationship with the [then] Karachi Capital City Police Officer Waseem Ahmed, SSP Farooq Awan and his brother Shahadat Awan [a lawyer and currently posted as prosecutor general of Sindh]," Uzair disclosed, adding he had done several favours for them, including helping Farooq and Shahadat encroach land in Malir. He also got Farooq to collect Rs150,000 to Rs200,000 in extortion every month.

The incarcerated gangster disclosed that on the insistence of Senator Yousuf Baloch he met the then chief minister Qaim Ali Shah and Talpur and asked them to get the head money and cases against him withdrawn, which was eventually done by Talpur and Zardari.

Uzair Baloch in army custody, court informed

In his statement, Uzair disclosed that after the Karachi operation was intensified he was called through Qadir Patel and Senator Yousuf by Talpur to her Defence residence, where Sharjeel Inam Memon and Morai were also present. According to him, Talpur discussed various issues the including Lyari gang war, and offered to hide his personal arms and explosives and have Sharjeel and Morai handle his financial affairs and Yousuf and Patel handle affairs in Lyari if he wanted to flee the country.

He testified to have done various illegal works for the party, including helping Patel encroach land and providing 500 jobs to criminals on Yousuf's insistence. He also admitted to have helped Owais Muzaffar Tapi, Zardari's foster brother, illegally occupy 14 sugar mills that were later purchased at lower prices.

Uzair also claimed to have sent 20 of his men to harass residents around Bilawal House on Zardari's instructions and force them to sell 30 to 40 bungalows to Zardari at lower prices. The gangster said he came to know about a plan to kill him while in police custody, so he pleaded to have his custody transferred to the Rangers.

The former Lyari kingpin had also requested complete protection, apprehending that he and his family members could be killed after these revelations, as he expected revenge from Zardari and other politicians he named in his statement.

Uzair Baloch, brother acquitted in attempted murder case

Gang war

He disclosed to have purchased arms between 2008 and 2013 from different sources, including Lala Tawakal, Saleem Pathan, Naqeeb Pathan and Jabbar Pathan, who would bring them from Quetta and Pashin.

"These arms were used for murder, kidnapping for ransom, encounters with the police, attacks on the police stations and to show power during political gatherings and strikes," Uzair admitted.

He said he got the police officer of his choice posted in Lyari, patronised gambling dens and formed different groups to collect extortion of millions of rupees on a monthly basis.

He disclosed that his accomplices committed murders, collected extortion, peddled drugs and operated gambling dens on his orders. He claimed all these criminal activities were conducted under the patronage of police inspector Yousuf Baloch, inspector Chand Khan Niazi, inspector Javed Baloch and police constable Baqir.

The defunct PAC chief disclosed that through PPP leaders Dr Zulfiqar Mirza, Patel and Senator Yousuf he had policemen posted in Lyari who would not arrest any of his gang members. He also got SP Iqbal Bhatti posted as the town police officer in Lyari.

Prime suspect: Uzair Baloch to be probed for Arshad Pappu's murder

He said on his orders Shiraz Comrade and Faisal Pathan had murdered Shehzad Charli with two others in June, 2012. He admitted to the murder of Haji Aslam, his two sons and another two unknown persons along with Baba Ladla in revenge for Hanif Baloch's killing in 2012.

Uzair said that to avenge his father Faiz Muhammad Baloch's murder, he and Inspector Yousuf Baloch, SHO Javed Baloch, Inspector Chand Khan Niazi and other accomplices kidnapped Arshad Pappu, his brother Yasir Arafat and Shera Pathan in March, 2013.

He said the victims were taken to the Adam Tea Godown, where around 25 accomplices beheaded them, played football with their heads in the streets, burnt their bodies and made a video. His accomplices included Shabir, Faisal Pathan, Baba Ladla, Saqib Boxer, and others.

Attacks on law enforcers

Uzair testified to having ordered the killing of Rangers hawaldar Ejaz and Munir through Sher Muhammad Sheikh alias Sheroo in 2013 and having their bodies disfigured to get a rival gang blamed for their killings. He also got former PPP councilor Chacha Khaliq killed.

The gangster admitted to have engaged in an encounter with former SSP Chaudhry Aslam in which five or six policemen and a passer-by were injured. He also ordered attacks on Ghaffar Zikri that resulted in the killing of four or five citizens.

Grenade attack near Uzair Baloch's residence leaves 7 injured

Uzair said he ordered several attacks on the Kalri, Baghdadi, Chakiwara, Kalakot police stations and police headquarters.

Fleeing to Iran

Uzair testified that he fled to Iran by crossing the border with the help of Nasir Baloch, whom he had known as a businessman and agent of the Iranian intelligence agency, who frequently visited Karachi, particularly Lyari.

Nasir took him from the Pakistan-Iran border and later Uzair met Iranian intelligence agency officers and agreed to share sensitive information with them in return for complete protection.

Uzair admitted to have shared with the Iranian spy agency the names of key officers of the armed forces in Karachi, Inter-Services Intelligence and Military Intelligence.

He said he promised to provide the Iranian spy officers maps and pictures of the army's V-Corps Headquarters, Corps Commander's residence, Naval Headquarters at Karsaz and Station Headquarters Karachi. He also identified for them the entry and exit points of the sensitive installations, number of security persons, routes and residences. He also promised to provide information about the army's installations in Karachi and Quetta later.

(By Naeem Sahoutara THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 10/10/2017)

Apex court orders security for Perween Rahman's family



The family of the director of the Orangi Pilot Project (OPP), Perween Rahman, who was murdered in 2013, is receiving serious threats after the arrest of the prime accused, Rahim Sawati.

Aquila Ismail, Rehman's sister, informed on Tuesday a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court (SC), headed by Justice Azmat Saeed Sheikh, that the family and their lawyer Salahuddin Panwar, who is appearing before the trial court, have been receiving threats from the prime accused.

The apex court directed the Sindh police to provide security to Rahman's family, OPP's employees and the complainant's counsel. The bench also ordered the Sindh inspector-general of police to decide on the complainant's application regarding the interrogation of two investigators, SIP Raja Ulfat Hussain and SIP Ashfaq Hussain, in the case. The complainant had alleged that both investigators had been involved in manipulating initial investigations in the Perween Rehman murder case.

Court orders immediate action against sale of gutka in Karachi

Rehman was gunned down by unidentified armed motorcyclists in a drive-by shooting near Banaras Flyover on March 13, 2013.

A petition was filed by 12 petitioners, including the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research and members of civil society groups, which requested the SC to constitute a judicial commission to probe Rahman's murder. Advocate Raheel Kamran Sheikh is appearing before the apex court on behalf of the petitioners.

The petition also pointed out that Rahman's murder symbolised high handedness, negligence and failure of the law enforcement agencies in Karachi, which had not only failed to protect the life, liberty and property of its citizens, but also failed to investigate the murder of a renowned social worker. Later,

the apex court accepted the petition and initiated proceedings in the matter. The SC also ordered a Karachi district and sessions judge to probe the matter.

On Tuesday, the Sindh police submitted a progress report regarding the investigations. The report says that Rahim disclosed before a joint investigation team (JIT) that he was an office bearer of the Awami National Party (ANP) and a councilor of UC-8. In 2011, Ayaz Sawati had come to him and asked help for setting up a karate centre for local youth and obtaining land for it from the OPP. Both of them went to Rahman for the purpose, but she replied in negative through a Pakistan Peoples Party councilor, Waheed.

Four al Qaeda terrorists killed in encounter with Karachi police

According to the report, the accused perceived Rahman's behaviour as discriminatory against the Pakhtoon community. Rahim convened a meeting with Ayaz, Amjad Afridi and Ahmad Ali in which they decided to murder Rahman.

It is also revealed in the report that Ayaz called a local commander of Taliban who was incharge of Katti Pahari to help in Rahman's murder. The commander agreed to assassinate Rahman against money.

The report states that Qari Bilal and Mehfoozullah killed the OPP director and nominates eight others for involvement in the case.

Court sentences man to six years in prison in Karachi

Regarding the trial of case, the report states that out of 26 witnesses, 13 have not been examined. However, the principal accused person, Rahim, has been arrested along with other suspects and a special police team has been constituted to ensure the arrest of the absconding accused.

Adjourning the hearing for four weeks, the bench directed the police to ensure that the remaining accused are arrested.

(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 14, 11/10/2017)

Criminal cops

CRIMINALITY within the ranks of law-enforcement bodies is a global problem. However, it would not be wrong to say that in Pakistan, the issue has attained chronic proportions, with the common citizen fearing the police force rather than reposing his or her trust in it. From demands of 'chai paani' to much worse, people are often shaken down by men in police uniforms. These black sheep eclipse the good work dedicated police personnel have done, often laying down their lives to protect others. One particularly galling example of police criminality came to the fore when it was reported on Monday that policemen had been booked for kidnapping a citizen for ransom in Karachi. A magistrate informed a court that he had raided the Ferozabad police station and got released a man who had been reportedly kidnapped from his house by two policemen and their accomplices in civvies. The culprits had demanded Rs2m as ransom, after which the victim's family approached the court to ensure his release.

It is acts like these that help fuel the common citizen's disillusionment with the police, and by extension the state. When those who are supposed to serve and protect indulge in such brazenly criminal behaviour, how can people be expected to trust the police force? Such activities reinforce the narrative that the state exists to exploit the citizen, not to serve him. The Sindh IGP has taken some positive steps in this regard, primarily by introducing the '9110' helpline for citizens to register their complaints against police high-handedness. At the helpline's launch in August, the Sindh police chief said complaints could be registered against officers who refuse to register FIRs, keep citizens in illegal confinement, etc. Along with such steps, there is a vital need to monitor the police internally and weed out elements that indulge in criminality. The police hierarchy must make it clear that there is zero tolerance for law enforcers who break the law.

(Dawn 08, 11/10/2017)

Killers of Perween Rahman nabbed, Supreme Court told

The Supreme Court was told on Tuesday that the principal accused behind the murder of director Orangi Pilot Project (OPP) Karachi, Perween Rahman, had been arrested and efforts were on to arrest 11 other absconding accomplices.



In a report submitted before the two-judge bench, headed by Justice Sheikh Azmat Saeed, Deputy Inspector General Police West Zone Karachi informed the court that the principal accused Mohammad Rahim Swati, who allegedly ran illegal hydrant business in Karachi, Ahmed Khan alias Papoo Kashmiri, and Mohammad Imran had been arrested and their cases were pending before the Anti-Terrorist Court-VII Karachi.

Ms Rahman who served as the director OPP Karachi was killed on March 13, 2013 while going home from her office. The assailants riding a motorbike opened fire on her car on the main Manghopir Road near Banaras Flyover wherein she received bullet injuries to her neck. Her driver rushed her to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.

The court on Tuesday also ordered the Inspector General Police Sindh to provide protection to OPP staff members, counsel for the complainant involved in the trial, decide on the application written by Aquila Ismail, sister of slain Ms Rahman, and Zohra Yousuf, for re-investigation into the case by police, and interrogation of the investigating officers — sub inspectors Raja Ulfat Hussain and Ashfaq Hussain Baloch — for their alleged involvement in manipulating the initial investigation into the murder of Ms Rahman.

OPP staff receiving threats from relatives of arrested suspects

The directions were issued when Aquila Ismail appeared in person to inform the court about the threats being received by the OPP staff from the family members of those who had been arrested.

Senior counsel Raheel Kamran Sheikh, who appeared on behalf of Aquila Ismail, told the court that even the lawyers of the trial court who represented the complainants were afraid because of the threats they were receiving.

Meanwhile, police in its report admitted that accused Rahim Swati was arrested in July 2016 after an encounter in the Manghopir area, and from his possession illicit weapons and explosives were recovered.

Swati also confessed before a joint investigation team (JIT) that he was an office-bearer of the Awami National Party and a councillor of UC-8 in PS-86. About the motive behind the murder, the report said that in 2011, Ayaz Swati sought assistance of Raheem Swati for opening a karate centre on the land owned by the OPP.

But Ms Rahman refused, the police report said, adding the scheme to kill Ms Rahman was conceived during a meeting between Raheem Swati, Ayaz Swati, Amjad Afridi and Ahmed Ali alias Papoo Kashmiri.

Ayaz Swati contacted by mobile phone Moosa — a local Taliban commander, and Mehfoozullah alias Bhaloo — then 'in-charge' of Kati Pahari area of Karachi.

On March 13, 2013, Raheem Swati told JIT that Ayaz Swati and Amjad Afridi informed him that Moosa, Bhaloo and Papoo Kashmiri had "accomplished the task".

Raheem Swati, to save himself from the clutches of law, went underground and started driving vehicles in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, police report stated.

During that period Moosa called him for the payment of Rs4 million and on failure his house was attacked with crackers.

Qari Bilal and Bhaloo had already been killed by police in an encounter.

The court ordered police to arrest the absconders and submit a fresh report within a month.
(By Nasir Iqbal Dawn 17, 11/10/2017)

Police claim arrest of Karachi 'knifeman' in Mandi Bahauddin

Police on Sunday claimed to have arrested in Mandi Bahauddin the prime suspect in attacking women with a sharp object, probably scalpel, in Karachi in a joint operation conducted by Sahiwal and Karachi police.

Official sources said suspect Waseem, 27, a native of Chichawatni, in Sahiwal district, was on the run to avoid his arrest.

Inspector General of Punjab Police Arif Nawaz confirmed the arrest but said more details about the suspect would be shared with the media once investigation was completed.

Karachi DIG says case still open to other potential suspects

"Right now it will be premature to say anything about the suspect," Mr Nawaz said.

The raid was conducted on the disclosures of Mohammad Shahzad, who was arrested by Karachi police on Thursday and was remanded in police custody for seven days by an anti-terrorism court.

Shahzad used to work at a factory in the Landhi area of Karachi and was stated to be a friend of the suspect. He reportedly provided cover to Waseem, who came to Karachi about a month ago. The police said Waseem had been missing from his native village 86/6-R for the last six months.

Shahzad told the police that Waseem was suffering from some psychological disorder and the media coverage of his acts gave him solace.

Besides the alleged facilitator, the police had detained 38 suspects for questioning during raids and search operations, said Karachi-East SSP Dr Samiullah Soomro.

"One or two detained persons were paramedics as the suspect used a scalpel, which is used in medical surgeries, to attack women. However, all the 38 detained suspects were released as they were found innocent," he added.

"Waseem, the main culprit, has been arrested with the help of Sahiwal police," said Karachi-East DIG Sultan Ali Khawaja.

"He is being shifted to Karachi for further investigation after legal formalities," concluded a brief statement issued by the DIG office.

However, Mr Khawaja, appointed a focal person for the media by Sindh IG A.D. Khawaja, told Dawn that it was yet to be verified if Waseem was actually involved in the crime.

"We are still investigation the case and it is open to other potential suspects as well," the DIG added.

Another police officer, who did not want to be named, told Dawn that the criminal was taken into custody through effective communication between Sindh and Punjab police.

"Leads generated from Karachi and coordination with Punjab police helped in the breakthrough," said the officer.

In his initial statement, Waseem rejected the charge and denied visiting Karachi. "I have no animosity with any woman," a police official quoted him as having said.

Similar nature of crime

It had come to the police's knowledge that similar attacks had been carried out against women in Punjab. It had also surfaced that Waseem was captured by Sahiwal police in 2016 at Azadi Chowk with his two friends, Izhar and Nazakat. He was sent to the Central Prison in 11 cases but was released on bail after eight months.

After the Karachi attacks, a similar incident occurred in Lahore's Chuhng area when a bike-rider allegedly stabbed and injured a woman a few days ago. There were lots of similarities found between the recent knife attacks on women in Karachi and those carried out by the suspect in 2014-15 in Chichawatni and Sahiwal which made the police to think about his involvement.

Sindh IG A.D. Khowaja, who chaired a meeting to review progress of the 'knife' attacks on women, formed two separate teams led by DIG-East Sultan Ali Khowaja and DIG-CIA Saqib Ismail Memon to ensure arrest of the suspect(s) with the help of modern technology and other law enforcement agencies.

Karachi police's two SSPs (investigation), namely Zulfiqar Mahar and Haider Raza, had stayed in Lahore and Sahiwal for several days in order to keep an eye on the movement of the suspect.

A joint police team interrogated his father, two sisters and a brother during the last two weeks.

Dr Soomro recalled that the first attack on a woman was reported to the police on Sept 25. Since then, 13 women of different ages have been injured by the attacker, according to reports/complaints received by different police stations such as Gulistan-i-Jauhar, Sharea Faisal, Aziz Bhatti, PIB Colony and Gulshan-i-Iqbal.

"The police have registered 10 FIRs about these incidents," said the East SSP.
(By Imtiaz Ali | Shafiq Butt | Asif Chaudhry Dawn 15, 16/10/2017)

Civil society prepares 'Charter for Police Reforms'

Civil society, human rights, women rights and citizens' rights groups released a 'Citizen's Charter for Police Reforms,' demanding the introduction of various reforms in the police department, which would be presented to Sindh Inspector-General of Police Allah Dino Khawaja.

This was announced on Friday during a press conference at the Karachi Press Club. The charter is divided into two sets of demands – one for common citizens and the other for police personnel. It was made after a lengthy process of consultations just after Sindh High Court's (SHC) decision regarding police reforms, under which the IG has been asked to make necessary changes in the police department according to the Police Act, 1861.

Civil society announces nationwide campaign against enforced disappearances

"We would like to emphasise that in this judgment we have touched upon only some aspects of the many problems related to policing, the police force and the law and order situation," stated Paragraph 102 of the SHC decision. It said that reforming the police force, reviving proper and effective policing, regaining and restoring law and order, and enforcing fundamental rights in the fullest sense is an ongoing exercise. "There are many problems which might need to be treated again in fresh petitions and other proceedings, however, even if this judgment proves to be a link in that chain, it is hopefully a step in the right direction," read the judgment.

Civil society, NGOs demand protection of human rights' defenders in K-P

The charter demanded that a provincial public safety commission or ombudsman be established. The human rights cell should be activated in each district, it should issue monthly reports, especially focusing on extra judicial killings and enforced disappearances, and a minimum five citizens should be made members of the cell, it added.

Another demand from the citizens included e-filing for launching complaints and reference number to

be issued to the complainants. All investigations should be conducted in a transparent and efficient manner and all funds allocated should be made available to investigating officers, who should be made accountable, the charter demanded.

The citizen's charters emphasised the need for foot patrolling along with the inclusion of women and minorities in the police force at all levels as per the 5% allocated quota.

Civil society expresses solidarity with Rohingyas

The charter said that arrested citizens must be given the right to privacy under the Constitution and the conditions of lock ups, including sanitary services, should be improved. It added that the assets of police officers, inquiries and their results against police officers should be posted on the police's website.

A special unit should be created to monitor progress in all cases relating to complaints of violence against women, children and minorities, it demanded.

The charter focused on the security of minorities' worship places and said that they should be protected by police officers belonging to the same religion as per Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani's judgement in the Supreme Court.

Ministry, NGOs to join hands for climate action

The charter also outlined a set of recommendations for the welfare of police personnel. A demand said that the budget for each police station should be put on the police website. Issues regarding the Annual Confidential Report (ACR) should be addressed, as police officers take little or no interest in writing the ACRs of their subordinates, the charter added.

It also mentioned that retired police personnel and families of martyred police officials should be paid dues on time, adding that their living conditions must be made on a par with other government service departments. Working conditions of police personnel should be brought in conformity with Pakistan's law and international standards, the charter demanded.

Civil society, traders condemn anti-Pakistan campaign in Geneva

It demanded that police personnel's families be given access to education and healthcare, adding that all injured police personnel should be given access to the best healthcare facilities as is available for the armed forces. The charter said that all police personnel should undergo regular medical checkups.

The concept of community policing should be promoted at the police station level and the performance of community policing should be made part of the ACR, the charter demanded.

A demand was also made for holding an annual public recognition of outstanding police personnel at an annual police-citizens function, which should be made an important event in Sindh's social calendar.

Civil society representatives demand establishment of consumer courts

The press conference was addressed by Nazim F Haji of the Citizens Trust Against Crimes, Karamat Ali from the Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research, Khateeb Ahmed from Shehri – Citizens For A Better Environment, Liaquat Sahi from National Labour Council, Sheema Kermani of Tehrik-e-Niswan, Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Chairperson Nuzhat Shireen and others. (THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 14, 23/10/2017)

Eight terrorists killed late Saturday belong to Ansarul Sharia: Rangers

The paramilitary force and Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) claimed on Sunday to have busted a newly emerged militant group – Ansarul Sharia Pakistan – allegedly involved in over half a dozen cases of terrorism, including the assassination attempt on the leader of the opposition in the Sindh Assembly, Khawaja Izharul Hassan.



Security officials claimed to have killed at least eight militants of the group, including their commander in chief, while four of them are still at large. They said Hassan's attack was a grave conspiracy to discredit the police and other law enforcement agencies.

The eight militants were killed in a joint venture during a four-hour-long intelligence-based operation in Raees Goth, Baldia Town, which began at around 11pm on Saturday night. Two Rangers soldiers and one CTD personnel were also wounded.

The killed terrorists were identified as group chief Sheharyar Warsi alias Abdullah Hashmi, Arsalan Baig, Saad Jamal, Kamran Riaz, Abu Bakar, Talha Ansari, Nihalul Haq and Hassan Haroon while the four absconders as Danish Rasheed, Junaid Rasheed, Abdul Kareem Sarosh Siddiqui and Muzammil. A huge cache of arms, ammunition, explosives, videos, video devices and jihadi material were also recovered, the law enforcers claimed.

'Terror bid foiled': Six militants killed in Karachi raid

This was disclosed during a press conference held by Rangers Colonel Faisal Awan and CTD DIG Amir Farooqui at the Rangers headquarters Sunday evening. The officials also shared footage of the September 3 attack on Hassan. In the footage, Colonel Awan said that one of the attackers could be seen wearing a police uniform while another, Sarosh, wore a white T-shirt, adding that the attacker who wore the police uniform had been killed during an encounter with the police while he was trying to flee after the attack.

DIG Farooqui said that it was a conspiracy to discredit the police, as the militants clad in police uniforms were trying to give an impression that law enforcement agencies were behind the assassination attempt. "As we know that Hassan was once arrested by the police, the attack was a conspiracy to discredit the police and other law enforcement agencies," said DIG Farooqui. "This was the first unsuccessful operation carried out by the militants. There would have been massive damage if they were successful in the operation," he predicted.

Talking about the group, Colonel Awan said that the militants were educated in universities in Karachi and went to Afghanistan to receive militant training. "They were trained at the al Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan. Sheharyar Warsi was the group's chief as well as the spokesperson," he explained. "Ansarul Sharia Pakistan has lost its competence in carrying out the terror plot after our action against them last night," he claimed, adding that though the militants were educated, this does not mean that the varsities or their teachers had any role in their radicalisation.

CTD arrests TTP militant

"I want to clarify that neither any varsity nor any teacher has been involved in such activities. These terrorists were recruited after obtaining their educations," he said. "The group comprised highly educated militants who were ideologically associated with al Qaeda."

He said that after the attack on the Muttahida Qaumi Movement – Pakistan legislator, the Rangers, intelligence agencies and police had started working to trace the group and gather evidence to locate their hideout. He said that Ansarul Sharia Pakistan was a small group of about 12 to 15 members, six to eight of whom are members of its targeted killing team, adding that the remaining members provide backup support and funding.

Colonel Awan said that various sensitive installations, public places, police and Rangers posts, as well as Aladdin Park, were on their future target list.

CTD official sacked for sharing info with political party's militant wing

Colonel Awan said that several suspects were detained during various raids after Hassan's attack but were released after their involvement could not be proven.

DIG Farooqui, however, said raids are under way to find the four absconding terrorists who went underground. "It is confirmed that the absconding terrorists are in Pakistan and apparently in Balochistan," DIG Farooqui explained.

The group has been involved in over half a dozen cases of attacks on high-profile personalities in Karachi. The group, however, came into notice for the first time when they killed four policemen in SITE during Ramazan. Pamphlets left at the site claimed responsibility for the attack.

The group had been active in the city since February, with the killing of police foundation personnel in Gulistan-e-Jauhar and since then they have killed a retired colonel in the Baloch Colony area, three policemen in Bahadurabad, two security guards at the Federal Board of Revenue office, a Traffic DSP in Azizabad and two Police Qaumi Razakars on the Northern Bypass.
(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 23/10/2017)

Perween Rahman's alleged killer arrested

Police claimed to have arrested on Tuesday a suspect allegedly involved in the targeted killing of Orangi Pilot Project Director Perween Rahman. Separately, the paramilitary force claimed to have arrested at least ten suspects during raids in different parts of the city.

A suspect, allegedly involved in the targeted killing of Rahman, was arrested during a raid conducted on a tip-off in the SITE area.

Veteran activist Lala Rukh breathes her last

Investigations SP Zeeshan Siddiqui said that Manghopir police station inspector, Muhammad Urs Rajar, arrested the alleged killer, Amjad Hussain Khan alias Amjad Afridi, son of Jameel Khan, and recovered a pistol and hand grenade from his possession. The officer claimed that the accused is an absconder in Rahman's murder case.

Rahman, a social worker who devoted her life to the development of the impoverished neighbourhoods across the country, was gunned down near her office in Orangi Town on March 13, 2013. The very next day, police killed an alleged Taliban operative, Qari Bilal, in an encounter and claimed that he was the murderer, resulting in closure of the case.

Activist among nine suspects held in Karachi raids

The Supreme Court, on April 15, 2014, ordered the authorities to conduct an investigation into the murder case after a judicial inquiry revealed that the police officers had manipulated the investigation. Two other prime suspects, Rahim Swati and Ahmed Khan alias Pappu Kashmiri, have already been arrested from Karachi and Mansehra respectively.

Rangers' raids

A militant of a banned outfit was arrested by the Rangers during a targeted raid conducted on a tip-off in the Jackson area. According to a Rangers' spokesperson, the suspect, identified as Qari Zulfiqar, was affiliated with Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and had been involved in facilitation of terrorists.

Eight terrorists killed late Saturday belong to Ansarul Sharia: Rangers

Two more suspects were arrested during a targeted raid conducted on a tip-off in the Jackson area. The suspects arrested were identified as Syed Javed alias Tarzan and Adnan Shabbir alias Pakori alias Manjan. A Rangers' spokesperson said that the suspects were affiliated with the Muttahida Qaumi Movement – London and involved in various cases of crime, including killings, extortion as well as propaganda against the state and the Pakistan Army on the directives of its leadership.

Four more suspects, identified as Suleman alias Kalu, Bilal, Kashif and Shahid, were also arrested during raids in Saudabad, according to the spokesperson. The suspects had been involved in various cases of street crime.

Eight suspected terrorists killed in Karachi gunfight

Meanwhile, three alleged drug peddlers were arrested during targeted raids conducted at Saudabad, Gulbahar and Jackson areas, according to the Rangers. Arms and ammunition and narcotics were recovered from the suspects' possession and they were handed over to the police for further interrogation.

(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 15, 25/10/2017)

Police claim arrest of suspect in Perween Rahman murder case

Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested in Manghopir a suspect involved in the 2013 murder of Perween Rahman, the director of the Orangi Pilot Project.

The police said Mohammad Amjad Hussain was arrested after a raid on his hideout which also led to recovery of a hand grenade and a 30-bore pistol.

"We wanted to arrest him as other suspects of the murder including the prime one had already been nabbed by us last year," said SSP West Younis Chandio.

Ms Rehman was shot dead in March 2013 in Orangi Town when she was returning home from work in the evening.

The city's leading social worker was attacked near the office of the research and training institute of the OPP, located in Qasba Colony, reportedly by four gunmen who fired at her when her car slowed down at a speed breaker.

The prime suspect in her murder, Raheem Swati, was arrested by the Karachi police in May 2016 following Supreme Court directives.

Another important suspect, Ahmed Khan alias Pappu Kashmiri, was arrested from Mansehra in March 2015.

The police had killed a TTP operative named Qari Bilal in an encounter the very next day of Ms Rahman's murder, terming him the murderer and closing the case.

However, the Supreme Court in April 2014 ordered the authorities to conduct a fresh probe into the murder after a judicial inquiry revealed that police officers had manipulated the investigation.

Man shoots father-in-law

A man shot dead his father-in-law and left his wife wounded over some domestic dispute on Tuesday.

Police said Naeem Sheikh visited his in-laws in Federal B Area Block 16 where his wife was staying with her parents after developing some differences with him.

The suspect asked his wife to return home with him but she refused.

"The refusal led to heated arguments which prompted Naeem to pull out his pistol and fire indiscriminate shots which left his father-in-law Zarar Ahmed and wife badly wounded," said an official of the Yousuf Plaza police station.

"The wounded persons were moved to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where Zarar died. He was 57 and hit by a single bullet in the chest," the official added.

Hearing gunshots, neighbours gathered outside the house and overpowered Naeem, who was later handed over to the police.

The police had also seized the pistol which was not licensed.

“The victims’ family is in a state of shock. We will lodge a case once they come out of it,” added the official.

Roof collapses

A labourer died and five others sustained injuries when the roof of a pharmacy company collapsed at the Federal B Industrial Area, police said.

They said the roof collapsed in the first half of the day when workers were on a tea break and only a few of them were inside that part of the building which was used for packaging of different products.

“That particular part of the roof which collapsed was under construction,” said the area’s sub-divisional police officer DSP Mohammad Zubair.

“The incident left six labourers injured, who were rushed to the hospital where one of them died of injuries.”

He was identified as 25-year-old Abdul Sattar who originally hailed from Muzzaffargarh.

“It was a tea break when the incident happened, otherwise it could have led to more casualties,” the police officer added.

He said the police were investigating the incident and questioning the company’s management.

The case would be lodged if any criminal negligence was found on part of the management or company owners, he added.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn 18, 25/10/2017)

Civil society recommends reforms to boost police-public relations

A group of civil society organisations presented their recommendations to Sindh police chief A.D. Khowaja on Wednesday for bringing reforms in the overall working of the police department.

The recommendations titled the ‘Citizens’ Charter for Police Reforms’ were prepared by rights activists and non-governmental organisations after the landmark judgement of the Sindh High Court that empowered the inspector general of police to overhaul his department.

A delegation comprising Nazim F. Haji of the Citizens Trust against Crimes, Karamat Ali and Shujauddin Qureshi of the Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (Piler), Khateeb Ahmed from the NGO Shehri-CBE, Asad Iqbal Butt and Shireen Khokhar from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and Advocate Sheza Ahmed met IG Khowaja at his office and handed him the charter.

The IGP appreciated the efforts of civil society for preparing such an important document. He agreed on all the points and assured them he would seriously take up the issues.

He also appointed DIG Headquarters Muneer Ahmed Shaikh as the focal person, directing him to prepare a mechanism in consultation with the civil society groups to implement the recommendations at the provincial level.

A spokesperson for Piler told Dawn that the Citizens’ Charter was divided into two parts — one for the people and the other for policemen.

The charter has been prepared after lengthy deliberations following the SHC decision under which the IGP had been asked to make necessary changes in the police department in accordance with the relevant law, i.e. the Police Act of 1861.

Public safety body proposed

The charter suggests that a provincial public safety commission should be established with equal representation of law enforcers and the people.

The civil society groups maintained that although there was no concept of a public safety commission in the existing colonial-era police law, they urged the IGP to set up such a body if he was serious in bringing long-awaited police reforms.

They also asked the IGP to activate the Sindh police's human rights cell and make citizens part of it.

The cell should issue monthly reports focusing on incidents of extrajudicial killing and enforced disappearances.

In a bid to end corruption, the charter also suggested that the details of assets owned by police officers be made available on the Sindh police's website.

The outcome of inquiries against police officers should also be posted online.

Meanwhile, according to a statement, the IGP told the delegation that after joining the department, he already introduced various reforms, including transparency in budget spending, police welfare/benevolent fund and police recruitment board.

He said when he joined as the IGP he came to know that the Sindh police had only 3,200 pistols. "I ordered purchase of 12,000 new pistols."
(Dawn 17, 26/10/2017)

Suspect remanded in Perween Rahman murder case

The administrative judge of antiterrorism courts remanded on Wednesday a suspect in police custody in a case pertaining to the murder of renowned social activist Perween Rahman.

The police contended that Mohammad Amjad Hussain Khan was arrested on Oct 24 in Manghopir and they found a hand grenade and an unlicensed pistol in his custody.

The investigating officer produced the suspect before the court and submitted that the suspect was one of the absconders in Ms Rahman's murder case and sought his custody for questioning as well as to arrest the other absconders.

The IO further submitted that the Supreme Court had directed the police on Oct 10 to arrest the absconders and now the matter is fixed before the apex court on Nov 15.

According to the remand papers, two suspects in the case, Qari Bilal and Mehfoozullah, have already been killed.

The administrative judge handed over the suspect to police on physical remand till Oct 27 and directed the IO to produce him again at next hearing along with a progress report.

The murder case is pending trial before an ATC against detained accused Ahmed Khan alias Ahmed Ali alias Pappu Kashmiri, Mohammad Imran Swati and Mohammad Raheem Swati, while Ayaz Swati, Amjad Afridi, Moosa and Shaldar Khan had been shown as absconders in the last charge-sheet.

The charge-sheet said Imran had disclosed that Rahim of banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan along with his brother-in-law Shaldar and others carried out the killing.

It contended that Imran also confessed that he was associated with Awami National Party in 2010 and was part of the meeting in which the murder was planned.

According to the prosecution, Ms Rahman, director of the Orangi Pilot Project, was gunned down on Manghopir Road in March 2013.

A case was registered under Sections 302 (premeditated murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code at the Pirabad police station.

Later Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 was incorporated in the case on a directive of the Supreme Court that also had ordered a judicial inquiry into the case by the judge of a district and sessions court.

The judicial inquiry report, placed before the apex court in 2014, recommended that the murder be reinvestigated by an efficient, independent and honest police officer. It expressed dissatisfaction over the probe stating that the police investigators had not hesitated to manipulate key aspects of the investigation.

Qari Bilal, the man blamed for Ms Rahman's murder, was allegedly killed in a shoot-out with police a day after the killing of the OPP head.

However, the inquiry report said the story of the mysterious encounter and recovery of a pistol did not inspire confidence.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn 18, 26/10/2017)

SHC restrains action against business partners of Ali Enterprises

The Sindh High Court (SHC) restrained on Thursday police investigators from taking any action against two absconding co-accused in the Baldia factory fire case.

The restraining order came on petitions filed by Dr Abdul Sattar Khan and Iqbal Adeeb Khanum, who had approached the SHC against the police for nominating them in the case and declaring them absconders.

The petitioners' lawyer, Advocate Hassaan Sabir, argued that his clients had business partnership with owners of the Ali Enterprises, a readymade garments manufacturing factory which was set on fire in September 2012. He said the Bhaila brothers, the factory's owners, had made payments to the petitioners which they spent on buying properties in Hyderabad.

PTI ask SHC to unveil reports on Baldia fire, Uzair Baloch

The lawyer informed the judges that the investigation officer (IO) of the case had nominated the petitioners as co-accused in the Baldia factory fire case.

As many as 259 workers perished when a deadly fire engulfed the multi-storey Ali Enterprises building. Later, the Rangers filed a joint investigation report, which stated that Rehman Bhola and others had set the factory on fire after its owners did not pay Rs500 million in extortion to the brother of then chief of the Karachi Tanzeemi Committee of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement.

Advocate Sabir argued that his clients had no role in the commission of the alleged offence, yet the police nominated them in the case and declared them absconders after which the concerned anti-terrorism court (ATC) issued warrants for the arrest of Dr Khan and Khanum.

Labour activists decry exploitation of workforce

The court was pleaded to suspend the arrest warrants issued by of the ATC and restrain the police from taking any action against the petitioners.

On the other hand, the special prosecutor, Sajid Mehboob Sheikh, argued that the trial was already suffering delays in the trial court since the petitioners had filed petitions in the high court. The

prosecutor pleaded to the court to issue the final order on the pleas at the earliest so that the trial might not suffer from delays.

Approving the petitioners' request, the judges restrained the IO from taking any action against the petitioners till further orders.

Meanwhile, the lawyer for the other petitioner, Ali Hasan, could not appear before the court. The bench adjourned the hearing till November 11.

(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 14, 27/10/2017)

Fresh attempt by provincial govt to remove A.D. Khowaja from IG's post



In a renewed effort to remove Inspector General of Police A.D. Khowaja from his office, the Sindh cabinet on Saturday decided to ask the Centre to post Sardar Abdul Majeed Dasti as the new police chief since he is a grade-22 officer while the incumbent is in grade-21.

The PPP-led Sindh government had twice tried to remove IG Khowaja from his post — first in December when it sent him on forced leave and then in April this year when it surrendered his services to the federal government and appointed Mr Dasti, then in grade-21, as the provincial police chief.

Civil society organisations had approached the Sindh High Court against the removal of Khowaja and on Sept 7 the court ruled that the IGP would complete his term, which could not “under any circumstances be reduced to less than three years” if the provincial government amended or altered the rules at any time.

The provincial government and the PPP bigwigs were not happy with the court decision and some of them had announced that they would approach the Supreme Court.

Sources said that they wanted to remove him because he made such rules which, if accepted in the present form, could eliminate political interference in the police department.

On Saturday, the Sindh cabinet took up the issue of Mr Khowaja's removal. IG Khowaja was also present in the meeting of the cabinet, which was chaired by Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and attended by ministers, advisers, special assistants, the chief secretary and other officials.

Sindh Services Secretary Mohammad Riazuddin briefed the cabinet that the IGP was a grade-22 post, but Mr Khowaja was a grade-21 officer.

The cabinet wants Sardar Abdul Majeed Dasti as the new police chief

He said he was posted on March 12, 2016 on an own-pay-scale (OPS) basis. However, another police officer, Abdul Majeed Dasti, was promoted to grade-22 and his services had been placed at the disposal of the Sindh government. He was made an officer on special duty (OSD), the secretary said.

He said that the Supreme Court had returned all officers posted on an OPS basis to their original posts and, therefore, the posting of IG Khowaja was in violation of the apex court's orders.

He proposed that the cabinet approach the federal government to get Mr Dasti posted as the new IGP in place of Mr Khowaja who became a “junior” officer.

After his presentation, the CM allowed IG Khowaja to make his case before the cabinet.

IG's view

The IGP said that when he was posted as the Sindh police chief with the consent of the provincial government by the federal government, the apex court's judgement against OPS officials was in vogue, which showed that the Centre was mindful of the fact.

He added that since 2005 some 17 IGs had been posted in Sindh and 14 of them were in grade-21. Only three officers were in grade-22, he added.

He pointed out that the IGPs in all the provinces and the director general of the Federal Investigation Agency all were in grade-21. Recently, he said, the Punjab IG was promoted to grade-22.

He said this pattern showed that there was no hard and fast rule to post an official of either grade-21 or grade-22 as the IGP.

The cabinet, however, decided that after consulting the provincial law department the government would approach the federal government to post Mr Dasti as the new IGP as there was one post of grade-22 in Sindh.

Home dept to revisit police's transfers, posting rules

Earlier, in a detailed presentation on the proposed Sindh Police (Posting, Transfer and Tenure) Rules, 2017, the IGP informed the cabinet that in the light of the SHC's Sept 7 order he framed draft rules through a seven-member committee headed by an additional IG.

He said that the IGP would have the transfer and posting powers of all the police officials — from grade-1 to grade-21 — which he would use through an “assessment board” and there would be a proper posting tenure.

He proposed that the tenure of additional IGs, DIGs and SSPs should be for two years and the SPs (investigation), SDPO, SHOs and SIOs should get one-year tenure.

He added that the post of SHO should be given to a sub-inspector or inspector who must not be more than 55 and must have qualified the “upper school course” with a minimum length of service in police for seven years.

Talking about premature transfers, the IGP said that there must be compelling reasons for the premature removal of an officer.

Home Secretary Qazi Shahid Parvez informed the cabinet about the recommendations of a ministerial committee led by Home Minister Sohail Anwar Siyal, Law Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Advocate General Zamir Ghumro and Law Secretary Iftikhar Shalwani about the Police Rules.

He said that the Police Rules proposed by the IGP were inconsistent with the Police Rules 1934.

He proposed that the powers to transfer and post a police officer up to grade-18 be given to the IGP, but the authority to transfer and post senior officers (grade-19 and above) must lie with the chief minister.

The CM directed the home department to revisit the rules proposed by the IGP as well as recommendations made by the ministerial committee and come up with well-thought-out rules within 15 days.

The cabinet also discussed amendment in Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898, draft rules under the Hindu Marriage Act, creation of the Ziauddin University Board of Higher Education, grant of charter to Sohail University and amendment in the Sindh development and maintenance of infrastructure cess act.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 17, 29/10/2017)

Hammad Siddiqui will be given 'clean chit' soon, predicts MQM leader

Startling revelations about the deadliest factory fire to hit the city are likely to surface in the coming days as Hammad Siddiqui, arguably the prime accused, has been arrested in the United Arab Emirates with the help of Interpol.



Siddiqui was once considered a symbol of terror in Karachi's underworld. He remained a symbol of terror between 2008 and 2013 and was the longest serving head of the Tanzeemi Committee, a very important and influential body of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM). His role was said to be instrumental in expanding the party's influence in Karachi.

Siddiqui was sacked on May 21, 2013 when party founder Altaf Hussain decided to dissolve the committee for violating party rules. He left for Dubai shortly after.

On December 19, 2016 Rehman Bholra appeared before the anti-terrorism court. He confessed that Siddiqui allegedly sought extortion and shares in the Ali Enterprises factory in Baldia Town and, upon refusal, decided to punish them. After the hearing, the ATC also issued red warrants for Siddiqui. The authority sought Interpol's aid in arrested Hammad and bringing him back to the country for further investigations and legal proceedings.

SHC seeks govt's reply on petition seeking publication of JIT reports

"Hammad Siddiqui is not a Pak Sarzameen Party [PSP] worker. We do, however, believe that he is not involved in the Baldia factory fire," PSP Spokesperson Wasim Aftab told *The Express Tribune*.

"Creating hype about each and every case of a high-profile suspect and involving a 'weak man' in that case is very usual in Pakistan," he lamented, adding that the PSP fully supports the claims of the heirs of the factory fire and wants justice for them.

"Those involved in the fire should be punished according to the law, even if Hammad Siddiqui is involved," said Aftab. While replying to a question, he said that Siddiqui is far junior to the senior PSP leaders and had no involvement in the formation of the party. The spokesperson said the decision to welcome Siddiqui in the party's fold would be made after he is acquitted by the court. "Farooq [Sattar] bhai has a dry-cleaning factory but we don't and the night of August 22 is an example of this," he explained.

Sources in Dubai told *The Express Tribune* that Siddiqui remains in the custody of the Dubai police, who have detained him at their headquarters. "Interpol, in collaboration with the Dubai police, arrested him on the directives of the Pakistani authorities as his red warrants had already been issued," explained a source. He said that according to the law, Siddiqui will remain in the Dubai police's custody. "Shifting him to Karachi through proper channels will take almost 60 days as it includes identification, the court process, warrants and handing over," he explained. "But let's see what the Pakistani government does over the matter and whether it uses proper legal process or diplomatic channels to bring him back." If the government uses diplomatic channels Siddiqui should be back in the city within a few days.

Baldia factory fire prime suspect Hammad Siddiqui 'arrested in Dubai'

He explained that Siddiqui's passport was renewed in 2014 through the Pakistani consulate in the United Arab Emirates and was valid till 2019. However, it was blocked in 2015, he revealed, adding that at least one more man was also reportedly taken into the custody during the raid in which Siddiqui was arrested.

MQM-Pakistan has also vowed to bring the Baldia factory fire suspects to justice. "The suspects involved in the Baldia factory fire or the May 12 carnage should be punished with iron hands," said senior MQM-Pakistan senior leader Aminul Haq. "Siddiqui was kicked out of the party in 2013 and since then he has had no links to the party."

Siddiqui's arrest has also created a perception amongst the MQM factions that he is being brought to Karachi to get a clean chit. "Those involved in giving clean chits to hundreds of others who have now joined the PSP are also trying to bring him back to join the party," said a leader of MQM-London. "Siddiqui is the only person who can control the multiple chains on the criminals [PSP workers]. In one, two or maximum three months, you will see that Siddiqui will get a clean chit as well as a good position in the PSP," he predicted.

Police investigators probing the Baldia factory fire termed Siddiqui's arrest a major achievement. "Rehman Bhola and Zubair Charya were already arrested but now Siddiqui's arrest is a major breakthrough for investigators," explained a senior police investigator privy to the joint investigation team. "Besides forensic evidence, we already have a confessional statement of Rehman Bhola as well as the factory owners' statements that will help us end this case."

A tale of two terrorists

He said that after arriving in the city, Siddiqui would be produced before an anti-terrorism court where he would definitely deny the allegations against him. "His denial would prompt investigators to prove the allegations against him to make the case stronger," he explained.

Being a student of the University of Karachi, Siddiqui had been affiliated with the All Pakistan Muttahida Students Organisation (APSMO), a student wing of the MQM. After APMSO, he became a worker of the MQM and then a member of the Tanzeemi Committee and finally served as the committee's chief in 2008.

"H reshuffled the entire setup at all the sector and unit offices of the party and replaced the old incharges with [his confidants]," explained a senior party worker. "Though the Tanzeemi Committee's role in the party was to run the political affairs at ground level and play a mediator between ground level workers and top leaders of the party, Siddiqui gradually planted his men and captured the entire committee and set up a militant wing," revealed the party worker.

District West Investigations SSP Zeeshan Siddiqui said that Siddiqui has been arrested on the basis of the red warrant issued against him. "There is no clear direction about how and when he will be brought back to Karachi," he said. "Hammad is a proclaimed offender and he will be in our custody when he is brought back to the country."

SSP Siddiqui said the formation of a special team to bring the suspect back to the country is unnecessary in every case.

(By Faraz Khan THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 30/10/2017)

Sindh govt slammed for trying to remove Khowaja

The petitioners of the Police Reforms Case / A. D. Khowaja Case on Sunday expressed their deep disappointment with the decision of the Sindh government to recommend the removal/replacement of Inspector General of Police A. D. Khowaja and non-approval of the Sindh Police (Posting, Transfer and Tenure) Rules, 2017.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, they stated that they were disappointed because both these decisions clearly showed that the Sindh government was trying to subvert the spirit of the Sindh High Court's 'landmark' judgement while 'pretending' to implement it.

As to the decision to recommend the removal/ replacement of IG A. D. Khowaja with Sardar Abdul Majeed Dasti, the petitioners pointed out that this was a repeat of the April 1st, 2017 notification through which the Sindh government had removed the IG and this very notification of April 1, 2017 was declared illegal by the Sindh High Court in its judgment.

'Tenure of the IG cannot be curtailed on such flimsy grounds'

"Moreover, the reason given to recommend the removal/replacement of A. D. Khowaja is that he has been appointed on an OPS basis, is clearly mala fide and an afterthought because it is the very Sindh government who had appointed IG A. D. Khowaja on an OPS basis and even otherwise, the statutory tenure of the IG cannot be curtailed on such flimsy grounds."

Regarding non-approval of the Sindh Police (Posting, Transfer and Tenure) Rules, 2017 on the 'flimsy ground' that these new rules were violative of the Police Rules 1934, the petitioners contended that it was clearly a violation of the SHC judgement.

The petitioners said the decision taken on Saturday by the Sindh Cabinet "merely reflected the mindset of the Sindh government to keep the Sindh police politicised".

'Sindh govt's conflicting stance'

Inspector General of Police A. D. Khowaja on Saturday contended before the Sindh cabinet that the cabinet seemed to have omitted "certain important and material facts".

He pointed out that he was appointed the IG of Sindh by the Establishment Division on March 12 with concurrence of the provincial government after due consideration of the service profile and rank.

In addition to this, the SHC had considered this very fact and discussed this aspect in Para 72 of the judgement, he added.

In the presentation given by the IG to the cabinet, whose copy was obtained by Dawn on Sunday, he stated that the court was not unmindful of the point that the IG was appointed on the OPS basis by and/or with concurrence of the provincial government and "it does not therefore, now lie with it to argue to the contrary".

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 15, 30/10/2017)

SHC expresses concern over authorities' failure in curbing gutka sale

Expressing concern and displeasure over failure of the provincial authorities in curbing the manufacture and sale of gutka, mainpuri and other tobacco-based items, the Sindh High Court on Wednesday asked the provincial law officer from when and where the crackdown on the menace was being carried out.

Headed by Justice Munib Akhtar, a division bench was hearing a petition filed by a concerned citizen, Rashid Khan, who informed the judges for the umpteenth time that the hazardous gutka and other items were still being sold openly in the markets.

While the provincial government's law officer claimed that the crackdown on the manufacturers and sellers of the tobacco-based items was being carried out across the province by the police, the petitioner alleged that gutka was still being sold openly in the markets.

The petitioner further complained to the judges that no action was taken against the menace and manufacturing units were openly operating in the city under the patronage of police.

When the bench asked the assistant advocate general from when the crackdown was being carried out, he submitted that actions were being taken against the persons involved in manufacturing and selling of gutka items for the past six months.

The bench directed the government's law officer to place on record all orders passed by the SHC on the matter and put off the hearing to Dec 4.

Earlier, the petitioner had submitted that he had moved three applications to the district West police for taking action against the manufacture and sale of gutka in Orangi Town, Baldia Town and other areas but to no avail.

He had asked the court to direct the respondents to take effective action against the culprits involved in running a gutka manufacturing factory in Ghaziabad, Orangi Town Sector 11 1/2, and other parts of the city.

The petitioner also sought disciplinary action against the officials involved in patronising the menace in the city.

In his reply to the court, the provincial police chief had submitted that currently there was no specified law against gutka-related offences and that's why the police were compelled to register cases under sections which were not specifically meant for this crime and the culprits could be sentenced for a maximum imprisonment of six months.

He had proposed that a special law for the prohibition of gutka may be promulgated with enhanced sentence and exorbitant fines.

The court was also informed by the inspector general of police that 324 persons had been arrested and 294 cases registered in the ongoing crackdown on the manufacture and sale of gutka, mainpuri and other harmful items on the court's directives.

LARP director denied bail

Another bench of the high court rejected the bail application of Lines Area Redevelopment Project (LARP) director Tahir Jameel Durrani in a case pertaining to 'china-cutting' and the sale of plots at throwaway prices.

The bench announced the order after hearing the bail plea of LARP's director, who asked the court to release him on bail as, according to him, he was innocent and had nothing to do with the embezzlement or corruption.

Tahir Durrani, who has been behind bars for the past one year, through his counsel denied the charges and submitted that he was falsely implicated in the case.

The National Accountability Bureau prosecutor, however, requested the court to turn down his bail application arguing that there were sufficient evidence against the accused and the reference against him and other LARP officials was also pending trial before an accountability court.

Besides Durrani, NAB had booked LARP officials for allegedly 'cutting' an area of 7,624 square yards in Lines Area illegally and selling plots at throwaway prices.

The accused persons allegedly caused Rs363 million losses to the national exchequer through their malpractices.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn 18, 02/11/2017)

Creation of 'Safe City Authority' demanded to curb rising street crime in city

Senior officials at a meeting of the Sindh Assembly's committee on home affairs on Thursday expressed concern over the increasing street crime and stressed the need for creating a 'Safe City Authority' immediately to deal with the menace effectively.

The meeting was presided over by MPA Awais Qadir Shah, provincial lawmaker and head of the committee. Law Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar and several other top officials attended the meeting held at the old Sindh Assembly building's committee room.

Mr Shah said the provincial government was working diligently on implementing an effective Safe City project.

Funds for establishing a DNA testing lab in Karachi provided by philanthropists
Home Secretary Qazi Shahid Pervez said some 10,000 closed-circuit television cameras were being installed across the city under the government's Safe City project. However, senior officials said the government should decide whether the overall project aimed at making the city safe would remain

pending with the IT department, or some realistic measures were being taken to get it implemented in letter and spirit.

There were certain hurdles which the project was facing, for which the Sindh chief secretary had officially been informed and his support sought, said an official.

City police chief Mushtaq Mahar said street crime and other offences could be effectively curbed if quality high-definition cameras were installed in Karachi.

The home secretary said the government was establishing a DNA testing lab in Karachi for which funds had been contributed by philanthropists.

Zubair Habib, chief of the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee, recommended to the committee to plan a Safe City Authority for Karachi, which had been overdue, to deal with the rising street crime in the city.

He handed a draft about the project, authored by his organisation, saying, however, it was not possible to get the project implemented overnight as it needed a lot of effort and funds.

He said the police and the IT department alone could not execute the entire scheme. He added that citizens should chip in for the betterment of the city as it was evident from the London example where 400,000 of the 700,000 cameras had been installed with contribution from the public.

The CPLC chief complained that funds given to the organisation by the government were insufficient as it needed Rs60 million annually.

The meeting was informed that more than 22,000 motorcycles had been snatched or stolen this year. Besides, it was added, the city roads were burdened with 22,000 motorcycles every month.

Officials identified some 50 neighbourhoods in the city, which had been categorised as 'sensitive' areas menaced by street crime.

The participants discussed the law and order situation across the province, with special reference to the city, threadbare and exchanged views on the security situation regarding shrines, worship places and mosques.

"The government is aware of its responsibility to protect every citizen and the purpose of this meeting is to guide the government in its endeavour to keep Sindh peaceful," said Mr Shah.

Law minister on IG

Later, Mr Lanjar told reporters that an officer of grade 22 would be the next inspector general police of Sindh.

He said the Sindh government had submitted its petition with the court vis-à-vis the IG Sindh issue, which would be heard on Nov 7.

He said the government would write a letter to Islamabad about the posting of a new officer for the IG Sindh post.

He said 1868's police act was too old to be practised in its present form and the Sindh government was in the process of amending the law, which would encompass CPLC and other relevant organisations and practices.

Awais Shah said the Sindh IG was not present at the meeting as his presence was not necessary; therefore, other senior police officers had been invited to attend the meeting.

(By Hasan Mansoor Dawn 17, 03/11/2017)

Commissioner's office demanded bribe against compensation sum, claims slain KU professor's son

The son of assassinated dean of the faculty of Islamic Studies in University of Karachi, Professor Dr Mohammad Shakeel Auj, has alleged that he was asked for Rs5,000 bribe by the office of Karachi commissioner for receiving compensation against his father's killing, and that too after more than three years.

The allegation came as a rude shock for the academic fraternity, his students and civil society as how the family of the deceased researcher and highly-regarded teacher was ignored and uncared for despite tall claims and promises by the government.

Mohammad Malhan Khan — one of the three sons of Dr Auj — said that he was approached by the Karachi commissioner's office on Nov 1 to collect a cheque of Rs200,000 as compensation for "martyrdom" of his father.

"The next day [Nov 2] when I visited the [Karachi commissioner's] office, I was offered to collect a Rs200,000 cheque," he said.

"[Then] I was politely requested to pay Rs5,000 as commission. I humbly request the Sindh [government] to stop ridiculing our family," he added.

Prof Dr Auj was killed in an armed attack on his car in Gulshan-i-Iqbal in September 2014.

Author of over a dozen books, he was Pakistan's second and the subcontinent's third DLitt in Islamic Studies. Between earning a PhD and a DLitt, Dr Auj wrote a total of 15 books. He was planning to write his own tafsir (exegesis) of the Holy Quran.

The investigations into the murder of Prof Dr Auj have remained quite mysterious as the police authorities and other law-enforcement agencies have come up with different claims one after the other which have failed to satisfy his family and admirers.

Mr Malhan claimed that compensation by the Sindh government was not given even after more than three years of its announcement.

"After my father's assassination, the Sindh governor announced Rs30 million as compensation and for that the chief minister also issued written directives. However, after three years we were told to receive Rs200,000 and that too against Rs5,000 commission," he added.

The spokesman for the Karachi commissioner could not be contacted to comment on the matter despite several attempts.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn 17, 04/11/2017)

51 cars seized, two suspects held in Rangers-police operation

Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Sindh police in a joint operation seized 51 new model cars across the country and arrested two suspects who got these vehicles on rent from citizens and rent-a-car dealers with the promise that their cars would be used on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) routes for commercial purposes, according to law enforcers on Saturday.

"In the biggest operation in the history of the country, 51 cars were recovered in different areas of the country on 'pointation' of held suspects," said commander of Sachal Rangers Brig Naseem Pervez and SSP Central Irfan Ali Baloch at their joint press conference here at the SITE Stadium.

The paramilitary force official disclosed that the Rangers and the police during joint snap checking detained two suspects, identified as Qazi Munib Ahmed Siddiqi and Mohammed Sheeraz Shaikh in the Nazimabad area and seized a stolen vehicle from them.

During the initial probe, it transpired that the held suspects were active members of an inter-provincial gang of carjackers.

Subsequently, the Rangers DG and Sindh police IG established a joint team comprising Rangers' Col Muddasir, SSP Central Irfan Baloch and others, who seized the vehicles in Karachi and other parts of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

This inter-provincial gang of carjackers used the vital project for their criminal activities, revealed the Rangers commander.

SSP Irfan Baloch told Dawn that the held suspects used to get cars from the citizens and rent-a-car dealers on rent with the promise that their vehicles would be used on CPEC routes for commercial purposes. Most of the victims of that gang were ordinary citizens, said the officer.

Mr Baloch said that a total of 84 vehicles were stolen by this inter-provincial gang of "car-lifters", of which 51 had been recovered.

Brig Naseem told the media that the suspects, after getting the cars on rent from the dealers and citizens, deactivated the GPS trackers installed in those cars. Later on, the stolen vehicles were taken from Karachi to some hard-to-reach areas of other parts of Sindh where cars were used illegally.

The Rangers' commander said that it had been observed in the past that the stolen or snatched vehicles had always been used to carry out crimes and acts of terrorism. However, he made it clear that none of the recovered cars had been used in terrorism.

The Rangers' official pointed out that there were at least five to six members of the inter-provincial gang and concerted efforts were under way to arrest the remaining suspects.

Owners of the stolen vehicles were also present at the press conference.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 17, 05/11/2017)

Rangers and police recover 51 cars in 'country's biggest vehicle-recovery operation'

Rangers said on Saturday that they had, in a joint venture with police, busted a group involved in stealing cars, which were then used in criminal activities across the country.



The operation was launched by a team comprising paramilitary soldiers and policemen on the instructions of DG Rangers Sindh, Sector Commander Sachal Brigadier Naseem said at a press conference in Karachi. He was flanked by District Central SSP Irfan Baloch.

Brigadier Naseem told reporters that Rangers troops and Sindh police had initially apprehended two suspects who were found in possession of illegal weapons and a stolen car during a joint operation in Nazimabad neighbourhood of the city.

Car thief nabbed in capital; five cars recovered

"The two men, Qazi Munib Ahmed Siddiqi and Sheraz Shaikh, were part of an inter-provincial car lifting group involved in selling and using stolen cars in different parts of the country," he explained.

"We then recovered 51 cars in the biggest car recovery operation in the country's history and returned them to their owners," he added

Most of the recovered cars were various models of Toyota.

“Criminals prefer carrying out their activities in stolen vehicles, however, sometimes these vehicles are also used in terror-related activities,” Brigadier Naseem said.

He added that vehicle lifting was a frequent crime but it had reduced considerably due to preemptive actions of law enforcement agencies in the recent past.

Car-lifting: 11 members of a gang arrested

The brigadier said the gang was also involved in renting vehicles through deception. “They acquired cars with their original documents from rent-a-car services offering hefty amount of money claiming that the vehicles were being hired for foreigners working on CPEC. They then sold the vehicles at lower rates,” he explained.

Besides, he added, they also cheated other people.

After deactivating the GPS tracker system, the gang shifted the stolen vehicles to rural Sindh and then used them illegally or sold their parts.

Curbing crime: Car-lifting gang busted

“All these vehicles have been recovered during a countrywide operation in Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P),” he said and thanked the Sindh police for assisting the paramilitary force in the biggest recovery operation in Pakistan’s history.

Brigadier Naseem said three key leaders of the group had been arrested so far and vowed to continue the operation until all culprits were arrested and all stolen vehicles recovered.

Owners of the recovered vehicles expressed joy over recovery of their vehicles.

“I had lost all hope of getting my car back,” said Muhammad Ali, who lost his vehicle a few months back. “It’s really amazing that I will soon get it back.”

(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 05/11/2017)

Fake police encounters

THE Pakistani police culture of ‘encounter’ is being severely threatened by an unlikely source: the necessity and the popular urge to capture neighbourhood and city activity on CCTV and mobile-phone cameras.

Such footage has exposed the policemen involved in staged encounters.

This month, footage from a bystander brought the horrendous practice into greater public focus.

It showed a police official in Faisalabad pumping bullets into the visibly surrendered body of a man. The police version of the incident was that the victim, Asif Sardar, had fired at a motorcycle squad of the Gulberg police when he and his ‘accomplice’ were signalled to stop.

Now an autopsy report confirms he “was shot multiple times at point-blank range”. A four-member committee formed on the orders of the Punjab chief minister and headed by the Sheikhpura regional police officer is probing the matter.

Few, however, think that the recommendations put forth by this team are going to lead to any revolutionary steps towards preventing the law enforcers from resorting to this ugly method of self-righteously dispensing justice and punishing those they deem guilty.

To begin with, over time the trigger-happy police have assigned to themselves a mission that not only provides them with instant results and satisfaction but that also appears to be a cover-up for their overall inefficiency.

Then the system that sets a policeman — albeit of senior rank — to catch a policeman is inherently flawed.

In such cases, there has to be timely intervention by an authority outside the police force to take up allegations of fake encounters.

That authority is nowhere in sight in the country and the police are routinely allowed the easy option of staging encounters to hide the missing parts of their investigation.

For example, not too long ago, police told the Sindh High Court that two people who had been marked as missing had actually been killed in two separate encounters earlier this year.

The human rights ministry in Islamabad does take notice of excesses by government functionaries — including those perpetrated by the police — but it has yet to come up with any short-term model let alone a proper system to question and curb the tendency of policemen to act as on-the-spot executioners.

In the absence of an authority empowered to deal with the menace many other Asif Sardars will find themselves at the mercy of the law enforcers.

(Dawn 08, 15/11/2017)

IG, secretary told to explain inaction against police officials

Expressing annoyance over the inaction against senior police officials with patchy background, a Supreme Court bench at Karachi Registry on Wednesday summoned the provincial police chief and the home secretary for explanation in the matter.

A two-judge bench of the apex court, headed by Justice Gulzar Ahmed, directed the inspector general of police and the home secretary to appear in person on Thursday (today) and explain why its directives had not been complied with.

The bench, which included Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, was hearing a suo motu case regarding the involvement of policemen in crimes, including murder, robbery and extortion.

During the hearing the court was informed that high-ranking police officers were still enjoying themselves as the authorities concerned did not bother to take any action against them.

These comments angered the judges, who said it was very sad that no action had been taken against the blue-eyed officers.

“It seemed that directives came from somewhere else,” one of the judges remarked.

The apex court directed the inspector general and the home secretary to appear before it to explain their “discriminatory” attitude.

During a previous hearing, the apex court had ordered strict action against 361 low-ranked policemen and officers of grade 17 and above who were found involved in corrupt practices or misuse of powers.


The court was irked when it was informed by a committee headed by additional IG Sanaullah Abbasi that 17 police officers were dismissed from service, 122 were sent on compulsory retirement and 11 opted for voluntary retirement

(Dawn 17, 16/11/2017)

Rangers, police to take on land grabbers in Karachi

Land grabbers in the city will be targeted during a crackdown by the Sindh government, police and Rangers.

This was decided during the apex committee's 21st meeting on Wednesday. The meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, also discussed crucial issues such as street crime, ghost employees, illegal immigrants and cybercrime but land grabbing dominated the agenda and was termed by participants an "organised crime being committed by militants and organised mafias".



"The money generated through land grabbing is used in crime and terrorism," revealed intelligence officials.

Murad directed the inspector-general of police and Rangers director-general to start the operation soon. "Please make all arrangements to start the operation in areas such as Surjani Town, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Manghopir, Super Highway and Scheme 33," he told them. Sources privy to the development said that officials briefed the participants of the meeting about organised gangs that occupy land and tamper with revenue records. "Please take strict action against those who are experts or involved in making fake property papers or documents," the CM directed the IG and chief secretary. The chief secretary, who is also a senior member of the Board of Revenue, briefed the meeting and said that the land records have been digitalised. It automatically searches government and private land when the plot number is entered in its search system.

Land grabbers eyeing Edhi centres in Larkana, other parts of Sindh

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, Nisar Khuhro, Sohail Anwar Siyal, Syed Nasir Shah and Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, as well as Karachi Corps Commander Lt Gen Shahid Baig Mirza, Chief Secretary Rizwan Memon, Rangers DG Major General Mohammad Saeed, Sindh IG Allah Dino Khawaja, Home Secretary Qazi Shahid Parvaiz, additional IGs of Karachi, the Special Branch and Counter-Terrorism Department and the provincial heads of intelligence agencies.

Street crime courts

"We have controlled heinous crimes in the city but street crime has posed a big challenge and we must devise a concrete strategy to control it," Murad said. It was pointed out that illegal immigrants in the city, who number around 2.5 million, are the often involved in street crime.

They generate funds through street crime and fund terrorism and other criminal activities, participants claimed, proposing that street crime be made a part of the apex committee's domain. This proposal was approved by the chief minister, who directed the police and Rangers to begin a crackdown against street crime.

The chief minister also constituted a committee to be headed by the law minister with the provincial home secretary and attorney-general as members to call on the Sindh High Court chief justice to request that certain courts be dedicated for the trial of street crimes so as to get attention focused and make it difficult for culprits to get released easily. "My objective to take drastic measures is to create a deterrence in the commission of street crime," the chief minister explained.

The meeting also has approved the transfer of 28 terrorism cases to the military courts.

Govt land retrieved from encroachers

The legal committee has so far held 16 meetings and has recommended 106 cases for trial in military courts. Presently, 38 cases with 29 accused are being tried in military courts. The military Courts have convicted 23 and awarded the death penalty to 21 accused, life imprisonment to two and returned three cases to the anti-terrorism court (ATC). One case is still pending before military court.

Fourth schedule

The meeting was also informed that re-verification of all existing fourth schedulers has been completed by the CTD's additional IG. The chief minister directed the home department to approach federal government to amend the Anti-Terrorism Act to curb financial transactions of fourth schedulers through banks.

The Sindh government has approached the interior ministry to notify the Sindh police as a civil authority under the Foreigners Order, 1951, enabling it to take necessary legal action against illegal immigrants as well as unauthorised foreigners in the province.

The home department, on the directives of the apex committee, has approached the State Bank of Pakistan to issue specific instructions to all commercial banks and financial institutions to take all security-related steps as per the bank's existing standard operating procedures.

Missing persons

The issue of missing persons was also discussed during the meeting. It was pointed out that some people are presenting exaggerated data of missing persons to gain political sympathy or present themselves as champions of human rights.

NAB takes notice of illegal land allotment in Gwadar

Murad directed the home department, IG and Rangers to compile data of missing persons so that actual figures could be made available. It was noted that some people go on jihad or for other criminal activities out of country and then go missing there but are included in the number of missing people in the city.

The participants of the meeting were informed that 83 prisoners in high-profile cases, including 52 under-trial prisoners, 18 convicts and 13 condemned, have been shifted from Central Jail Karachi to other districts. Another 137 prisoners, including 69 under-trial prisoners, 50 convicts and 18 condemned have also been shifted from Karachi to other districts.

(By Hafeez Tunio THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 16/11/2017)

Police quell protest demo by Fix It activists

Police on Sunday lobbed teargas shells and used water cannon to disperse 'Fix It' campaigners who were protesting outside the Karachi Press Club against poor quality education in Karachi and tried to move towards Governor House, officials and witnesses said.

Around 50-60 protesters led by founder of the Fix It arrived at the press club and held a protest demonstration against poor quality education in Karachi's institutions. As they tried to move towards Governor House, police personnel advanced towards them to quell the demonstration by firing teargas shells and using water cannon.

The police also sealed off the road leading to Governor House, causing traffic jam on adjacent roads in the area.

"Seven protesters were arrested for rioting," said Karachi-South DIG Azad Khan.

The Artillery Maidan police registered a case against them under sections 147 (punishment for rioting) and 148 (rioting armed with deadly weapon) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The DIG South said that the protesters also attacked policemen.

He said it was agreed between the protesters and the police authorities that they would restrict their protest to the KPC. However, the campaigners did not follow their commitment and started moving towards Governor House, he said. They also instigated other people to join them, he added.

DIG Azad Khan said that the vicinity was part of the 'red zone' where holding such protests was not allowed.

Besides, the prime minister was in the city and was to move in the area, he said, and added that the police had to disperse the protesters by using force because the demonstration could have created a security issue.

(Dawn 15, 20/11/2017)

'MQM leaders ordered arson attack at Ali Enterprises'

Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) leaders ordered setting the garment factory in Baldia Town on fire, killing 259 workers over non-payment of extortion by its owners, it was revealed before the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday.



These revelations came in statement recorded by the prime suspect in the fire, Abdul Rehman alias Bhola, before the judicial magistrate and a statement recorded by the owners of Ali Enterprises before a joint investigation team.

These statements were presented before a two-judge bench, headed by Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto, while hearing petitions filed by four co-accused against the issuance of their arrest warrants by the anti-terrorism court concerned in the Baldia factory fire trial.

Two-hundred-and-fifty-nine workers perished in the deadly fire that broke out in the industrial unit on September 11, 2012 in which Dr Abdul Sattar Khan, Muhammad Ali Hassan Kadri, Umer Hassan Kadri and Iqbal Adeeb Khanum are named as co-accused.

Baldia factory fire prime suspect Hammad Siddiqui 'arrested in Dubai'

Their lawyers, Anwar Mansoor Khan and Hassan Sabir, read out the statements of Bhola and the factory owners.

In his confessional statement, Bhola confessed that he was involved in murders and other acts of violence on the orders of the MQM leadership.

The suspect disclosed that he had killed various activists of the Pakistan Peoples Party and Sunni Tehreek. According to the statement, millions of rupees collected through Zakat, fitra, sacrificial animal hides and extortion were stashed at MQM headquarters Nine Zero.

Bhola disclosed that the then incharge of the Karachi Tanzeemi Committee (KTC), Hammad Siddiqui, had made him the incharge of MQM's Baldia unit to perform an important task. The suspect added that later he was given the task to extort Rs250 million from the owners of Ali Enterprises.

Bhola revealed that he was informed by Zubair alias Chariya on September 11, 2012 that arrangements had been made to set the factory on fire, adding that Hammad was also informed before the factory was set ablaze.

PTI ask SHC to unveil reports on Baldia fire, Uzair Baloch

According to the statement, Chariya and his accomplices reached the factory in a high-roof and after around 25 minutes informed Bhola that the 'work was done'. Hammad then asked them to make arrangements to shift some MQM workers, MPAs and MNAs to the burning factory.

In his confessional statement, Bhola also revealed that MQM leader Abdul Rauf Siddiqui had a case registered regarding the fire against the factory's owners to prevent the MQM from being accused.

According to the statement, after the factory owners obtained bail Hammad and Rauf summoned them and received Rs40 million to Rs50 million in extortion.

The lawyers said the factory owners had named Hammad and other MQM leaders in their statement, accusing that the factor was set on fire on the orders of the MQM leaders over non-payment of extortion by the factory owners.

They argued that the key suspects – Bholi and Chariya – who were taken into custody had not named the petitioners – Muhammad Ali Hassan Kadri and Umer Hussain Kadri in their statements. They informed the court that the factory owners had made payments to their client from their bank accounts via cheque.

SHC summons complete records in Baldia factory fire case

The lawyers argued that an FIR of the Baldia factory fire was already registered but the trial court later ordered that another one be lodged in light of the JIT report findings.

“Had it been extortion money it would have been paid in cash, not through cheque,” they argued, adding that the payment made to the petitioners by the factory owners was purely for business, not extortion.

Advocate Khan argued that then MQM leader Anis Kaimkhani, who is now president of the Pak Sarzameen Party, was also named in the JIT and a case should also be registered against him.

It was argued that the Baldia factory fire incident took place in 2012 while the factory owners made the payment to the petitioners for setting up a factory in Hyderabad in 2014.

Advocate Khan said such information was also provided to the Federal Investigation Agency. He said the ATC had issued arrest warrants for his clients in contradiction to the evidence.

Hammad Siddiqui will be given ‘clean chit’ soon, predicts MQM leader

Advocate Hassan Sabir argued that the petitioner, Dr Abdul Sattar, who is a business partner of Ali Hassan Kadri, was paid Rs130 million for business purposes. He added that Adeeb Iqbal Khanum was a 70-year-old lady who was named in the case on the basis of JIT report.

The special public prosecutor, Sajid Mehboob Sheikh, argued that the JIT had recommended registering a fresh case of the Baldia factory fire incident and, on the basis of such recommendations, the charge-sheet was also filed to the trial court.

He disclosed that earlier the case was not independently investigated due to political pressure, adding the JIT, comprising representatives of the intelligence agencies and police, had examined the evidence afresh and made their recommendations.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the bench dismissed the petitions, restoring their arrest warrants issued by the ATC.

(By Naeem Sahoutara THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 23/11/2017)

SHC seeks reports on implementation of its orders

The Sindh High Court (SHC) asked on Thursday the provincial advocate-general to seek instructions from the government regarding implementation of the court’s judgment in relation to enactment of rules regarding transfer, posting and tenure in the police force.



A two-judge bench, headed by Justice Munib Akhtar, told the government law officer to seek such instructions and place them before the court by November 30.

The judges had taken up an application moved on behalf of civil society representatives, seeking the implementation of court orders for the enactment of rules regarding transfers, postings and tenures in the police force.

The applicants, including Karamat Ali and others, recalled that in its September 7 judgment the SHC had quashed the notification regarding the transfer and posting notification of senior police officers issued on July 7, 2017, and all similar notifications as unlawful.

Sindh police witnesses massive reshuffle in hierarchy

They argued that the court had quashed those notifications because such powers for transfers and postings of police officers at all levels, inclusive of Police Service of Pakistan officers serving in the province, are vested in the inspector-general of police and were to be exercised by the top cop in terms of rules or orders to be framed.

The judges were told that the court had directed the provincial police chief to frame draft rules within 30 days setting out the manner in which he (and/or the police hierarchy acting through him) was to exercise the powers of transfers and postings in the police force at all levels.

The court had observed that the rules must also, inter alia, set out the period or term that is ordinarily to be served at any level or post so as to ensure that “the rules laid down by the Supreme Court in the Anita Turab case shall apply in relation thereto,” the applicants’ lawyer, Faisal Siddiqui said.

Police ‘encounters’ in Karachi need to be thoroughly investigated: SHC

He added the court had further observed that the draft rules shall be transmitted to the provincial government, meaning the Sindh Cabinet, and, to ensure transparency, posted simultaneously and prominently on the website of the Sindh Police.

The lawyer alleged that the Sindh Cabinet did not implement the judgment in letter and spirit, adding that instead it tried to remove the provincial inspector-general in order to delay and avoid the enactment of draft rules framed by the police chief.

Therefore, the court was pleaded to direct the chief secretary and Sindh inspector-general of police to file a report regarding implementation of the court’s direction in relation to the enactment of rules regarding transfer, posting and tenure in the police force.

After initial hearing on the plea, the bench issued notices on Thursday to the advocate-general with direction to seek instructions from the government in this regard. The law officer was further told to inform the court about the instructions on November 30.

(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 24/11/2017)

Four-year-old’s murder sparks people’s ire in Karachi

Four-year-old Sakina was on her way to school on Friday morning. The little girl had planned a few things for her weekend, including her fifth birthday party, but her dreams came to an abrupt end when she lost her life.



Sakina was killed due to impact when a reckless bus driver racing on MA Jinnah Road hit the motorcycle she was travelling on.

Seeing the body of the young child crushed under the wheels of the bus, passers-by and other motorists stopped and set two buses on fire. The resulting blaze blocked the flow of traffic on the busy road.

Sakina was travelling to school at around 7:35am with her father, Huzaifa, 30, from their house in the Ranchore Lines area of Saddar. She was crushed to death by the speeding bus while her father was also critically injured in the accident.

“The accident took place when one of two buses racing on MA Jinnah Road hit a motorcycle,” said a nearby shopkeeper, Tariq Ayub. “The father of the girl fell onto the footpath after the bus hit his

motorcycle but his daughter, who was sitting on the motorcycle's fuel tank, was crushed to death under the wheels of the bus."

Three siblings killed in Karachi water tanker accident

Closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage of the incident has been circulating on social media. It shows the father shocked after he sees his minor daughter crushed under the wheels of the bus. A crowd of people gathered at the spot and called the ambulances and the police.

The victims were immediately taken to Civil Hospital, Karachi, but the girl died on the spot. The driver and conductor of the bus that hit the motorcycle managed to flee after the accident, escaping the mob's fury.

The people who gathered at the site bashed the windows of the two buses and set the vehicles ablaze. They even attacked the fire brigade vehicles that arrived to douse the flames. The mob also blocked the road, pelting passing vehicles with stones.

Police arrived at the scene to control the increasingly violent crowd. The law enforcers caught nearly 11 people from the spot for setting the buses on fire and disturbing law and order situation. A score of people also staged a protest against the bus drivers as well as the police and held them responsible for the accident.

"This is not the first time these buses have taken someone's life," cried one of the protesters. "Racing between bus and rickshaw drivers is common on the roads of Karachi but the police, instead of taking action against them, just accept bribes."

Government negligent towards local motorcycle manufacturers

Backed up by the CCTV footage, the protesters claimed that a police mobile was there at the time of the accident but, instead of taking action against the driver and conductor, just moved on.

Later in the evening, the police claimed to have arrested the driver and owner of the bus. "We have arrested both the driver, Saleem, and the owner, Azam, during separate raids," Saddar Division SP Tauqeer Muhammad Naeem said. "The accident took place because of reckless driving, as two public transport buses were racing each other. When they reached near Tibet Centre, the 4-K route bus tried to overtake another bus on the wrong side of the street, hitting the motorcycle."

He said that the police have also obtained the CCTV footage and are identifying rioters through it. The rioters are being booked for torching the buses.

Not an isolated incident

Separately, 10-year-old Mehsan, son of Saffal Shah, also lost his life when a speeding oil tanker hit him near his house in Macchar Colony. The victim was shifted to Civil Hospital, Karachi but died on the way.

Police officials said that the accident took place when the victim was trying to cross the road and a speeding oil tanker hit and killed him, adding that the tanker driver managed to escape.

Karachi's only traffic accident data compilation project shuts down

Karachi has witnessed a series of accidents in less than a week. A couple of days ago, a young girl lost her life while she was asleep inside her house in Ibrahim Hyderi. A speeding oil tanker crashed into the wall of her house, killing her and wounding 10 others.

"It is the mind-set of the drivers. You can call it a 'drivers' adventure'. Sometimes they do it [racing] to get passengers first," explained Traffic DIG Imran Yaqoob Minhas. "Usually, Rs500 is the fine for the reckless driving or driver's negligence but sometime, we fine them [drivers] Rs2,000." He said that a number of drivers are being fined on a daily basis for over speeding, racing and over taking.

(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 25/11/2017)

35 people injured in violent clashes in Karachi

At least 35 people were injured, some of them receiving gunshot wounds, as violence erupted in Karachi on Saturday during protests mounted by activists of religious parties in solidarity with members and supporters of the Tehreek Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, officials and witnesses said.



At least two policemen were among those injured. All major shopping and commercial centres remained closed due to protests while public transport disappeared from the roads, causing immense suffering to the citizens.

Around 23 people, including two policemen, were hurt during clashes between the police and the protesters on main Sharea Faisal near Stargate while 12 people were injured during clashes between the protesters and shopkeepers over forcible closure of shops and markets in Saddar area.

Protesters belonging to different religious organisations came out and blocked major roads and areas at around 30 places in the city after learning of the law-enforcement agencies' bid to disperse the Tehreek's supporters and members taking part in a sit-in on the junction of the twin cities.

Superhighway, National Highway blocked

According to sources in police, the protesters blocked both the tracks near Al Asif Square; as a result traffic was suspended between Karachi and Hyderabad via the Superhighway.

The protesters also blocked both the tracks of the National Highway near Malir-15.

Activists of the religious party, many of them armed with sticks, blocked the University Road near Hassan Square and squatted on the road leading to National Stadium.

M.A. Jinnah Road was blocked at Numaish Chowrangi and near Merewether Tower, and the traffic was suspended on both of its tracks as a result.

Protesters block around 30 spots in metropolis

Protests erupted on the main Sharea Faisal at two points, near Stargate and Nursery, where violent clashes took place, resulting in injuries to several people.

Malir SSP Rao Anwar Ahmed told Dawn that "miscreants of one organisation" came from Shah Faisal Colony and allegedly "hijacked" the protest.

"One of the men from among the protesters was armed with an SMG rifle and he started firing on policemen. The SHO of the Memon Goth police station, Gulzar Tunio, and a constable, Sabir, sustained bullet wounds," he said.

SSP Ahmed admitted that some protesters also got bullet injuries; however, he claimed that police had only resorted to firing in the air.

The officer said that about 10 protesters were detained while 20 motorbikes belonging to the protesters were impounded. He said that police were trying to obtain CCTV footage to identify the man armed with the SMG.

"We received 15 people who were brought with bullet wounds from the Stargate area," said police surgeon Dr Aijaz Khokhar. They were admitted to the JPMC.

He said that all the wounded men were civilians. None of them sustained life-threatening injuries.

Two wounded policemen were shifted to the Aga Khan University Hospital where their condition was stated to be out of danger, said the Malir SSP.

He said the protest at Stargate, which started at 10am, was controlled at about 4pm, and both the tracks of Sharea Faisal were cleared for traffic.

Later, however, a clash between protesters and police erupted on main Sharea Faisal near Nursery.

Karachi East SSP Dr Samiullah Soomro told Dawn that the protesters wanted to block both the tracks of the road leading to the airport.

He accused the protesters of resorting to violence, which prompted the policemen to fire tear-gas shells to disperse them.

Dr Soomro said that some protesters tried to damage nearby banks and petrol pumps; however, police prevented the situation from deteriorating further. "Both tracks of Sharea Faisal remained closed for 45 minutes," he said.

The officer said that no one was arrested.

Clash at market

A clash also erupted between protesters and shopkeepers as the former allegedly tried to forcibly close shops and other commercial activities in the Saddar area.



Saddar SP Tauqeer Mohammed Naeem said that some protesters armed with sticks tried to forcibly close shops at Empress Market. However, the shopkeepers put up resistance. Resultantly a clash erupted between them, causing injuries to some persons. The police controlled the situation later.

Additional police surgeon Dr Qarar Ahmed Abbasi said that 12 persons were brought with injuries for treatment at the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital from the Saddar area.

Violent protests were also reported from Al Asif Square and other areas where a few media persons also sustained minor wounds, according to witnesses.

Acts of arson

Acts of arson were also reported from certain areas.

According to a fire brigade official, one truck was set on fire by protesters on Sharea Faisal at Natha Khan Bridge. The firemen managed to control the blaze and save the truck from complete destruction.

Similar acts were reported from Shahrah-i-Quaideen where protesters allegedly tried to damage a foreign fast-food restaurant, said witnesses.

Karachi police chief Mushtaq Ahmed Mahar told Dawn on Saturday night that protests and sit-ins continued at around 25 to 30 roads/places in the city and representatives of the provincial govt and administration were engaged in talks with them for peaceful resolution of the situation.

However, the city police chief vowed that the police would be compelled to take action if the protesters tried to damage the life and property of citizens and the government.

At the time of our going to press sit-ins were continuing at several locations across Karachi.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 17, 26/11/2017)

Police beat up, detain teachers agitating for regularisation of jobs



Police resorted to baton-charge and took into custody several teachers in an attempt to stop them from marching on Chief Minister House on Monday. The protesters were agitating for the regularisation of their jobs.

As several hundred teachers arrived at the Karachi Press Club (KPC) and tried to move towards the CM House, police already deployed on the surrounding roads baton-charged them and used tear gas and water cannons to disperse them, badly injuring some of them, including a female teacher.

Earlier, authorities concerned invited the teachers for talks at commissioner's office, where they failed to reach an agreement.

SP Saddar Tauqeer Mohammed Naeem told *Dawn* that the teachers compelled the police to take action.

"The provincial government has already banned such rallies in red zone," he said.

'The provincial government has already banned such rallies in red zone'

The SP added that the police initially tried to disperse them with the help of water cannons.

"But when they attacked policemen with stones and tried to damage their vehicles, the police were forced to baton-charge and tear gas them. Around 20 to 25 teachers have been detained," he said.

A central leader of the All Sindh Primary Teachers Association, Javed Ahmed, told *Dawn* that he along with 70 to 80 other teachers was detained at the Artillery Maidan police station while several of his colleagues were imprisoned at other police stations.

Mr Ahmed said they started the march for the fulfilment of their demands, some of them had already been agreed to by the provincial authorities but they were not implemented.

The march started from the mausoleum of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai in Bhit Shah on Dec 10 and after passing through various cities arrived at the KPC on Monday.

The teacher body's leader said that two officials from the South district administration approached them for talks, to which they agreed.

He further said that he along with four other office-bearers held talks with the Karachi commissioner and the special secretary for education was also present at the meeting.

"We left the commissioner's office when we were told that they (the senior officials) were not in a position to fulfil our demands," said Mr Ahmed.

He said when they were about to reach the KPC, the policemen already deployed there arrested them.

"And as other teachers after failure of talks tried to move towards the CM House, they were subjected to high-handedness," he said.

The teachers' leader claimed that a woman teacher, Farzana, fell unconscious because of tear gas while another teacher's nose was damaged during the baton charge. One of the teachers was struck in the head so hard that he was seen bleeding profusely.

Regarding their future line of action, the teacher said they had decided to fast unto death at the KPC.

Some of their demands were about the promotion of teachers to grade 16 and regularisation of services of the teachers working on contracts and those who have passed NTS tests.

He claimed that the Sindh government had agreed to grant them the 16 scale in 2014 but it was not implemented.

The protesting teachers requested Inspector General of Sindh Police A.D. Khowaja to release their colleagues and appealed to the Chief Justice of Pakistan and the Chief Justice of Sindh High Court to pay special attention to their demands and issue orders for regularisation of their jobs.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 15, 26/11/2017)

Gang of policemen issuing fake arms licences busted

The Rangers claimed on Saturday to have busted a gang allegedly involved in issuing and selling fake arms licences to the public.



The gang comprises Sindh police personnel and a member of a militant wing of a political party. The gang was busted during a raid jointly conducted by the Rangers and police.

“The Rangers received a tip-off about a gang involved in issuing fake licences and selling illegal weapons in Liaquatabad,” explained a Rangers spokesperson. “This gang has been involved in this business for the last few years.”

The Rangers arrested a key member of the gang, Faizan, and seized illegal weapons and five fake licenses.

During initial interrogations it was discovered that a gang was involved in this business, said the spokesperson, adding that the paramilitary troops later arrested at least seven more members of the gang.

Rangers’ commercial activities draw PAC ire

The arrested gang members included Sindh Reserve Police Sub-Inspector Omar Daraz Khan, hawaldar Syed Nadir Ali Shah and hawaldar Syed Shahid Ali of the Sindh police’s Special Branch. Besides the cops, four more members of the gang were arrested – Junaid, Zuhair Kamal, Saddam Siddiqui and a member of a militant wing of a political party, Kamran Preedy, who was involved in selling illegal weapons to Shah despite several arrests and imprisonments.

Shah has been involved in smuggling weapons on the basis of fake licences from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa by air and has also travelled for this purpose at least 35 times. The recovered weapons from the suspects included nine weapons of different calibers, including two G3 rifles, 18 magazines of different weapons, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, 140 fake computerised arms licences, including NADRA forms, 233 other fake documents, 75 testimonials of matriculation, intermediate and graduation and seven fake driving licences. Apart from these, hundreds of fake government stamps including those of the deputy commissioners of Karachi, Thatta, Nawabshah, Quetta and Jacobabad were recovered.

The force also recovered the material and equipment used in making the fake arms licences including computers, colour printers and a lamination machine. The Rangers spokesperson said this gang has been involved in this business for the last 10 years and has issued at least 8,000 fake arms licenses, 4,000 fake educational degrees and hundreds of driving licences and No Objection Certificates from different organisations. The gang has earned millions of rupees through this business.

Sindh Rangers’ policing powers extended for another 90 days

Sindh Rangers Director-General Major General Muhammad Saeed lauded the efforts of the Rangers troops and police for carrying out a successful operation.

Separately, the Landhi police also claim to have arrested an alleged target killer belonging to a militant wing of a political party.

The accused, Saeed Khan Bukht, is an ex-incharge of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement's unit 77 in its Korangi sector and was involved in the targeted killings of ASI Nadeem and constables Arif, Khalil, Asim, Fida and ASI Javed in Landhi. Further investigations are under way.
(By Faraz Khan THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 03/12/2017)

Three policemen among eight held for running illegal arms business

Rangers on Saturday claimed to have arrested eight people, including three policemen, for their alleged involvement in the illegal weapons business and forging arms licences in the city.

Two policemen were associated with the Sindh Reserve Police and their third accomplice was part of the Special Branch, which is the intelligence arm of the Sindh police.

A spokesperson for the paramilitary force said that the Pakistan Rangers, Sindh got credible information that a group was involved in sale and purchase of illegal weapons and issuance of fake licences in the Liaquatabad area.

The group minted a huge sum of money by issuing fake arms licences.

Acting on a tip-off, the Rangers first arrested Faizan Khan in Liaquatabad.

Gang sold thousands of fake arms licences, degrees and other documents over 10-year period
The spokesperson described him as an "active member of the gang".

He said that illegal arms and five fake licences were recovered from him.

During initial questioning, the detained suspect disclosed that an organised gang was involved in this illegal business.

In the light of his disclosures, a team comprising officials of both Rangers and police took into custody seven members of the gang.

The Rangers spokesperson identified the held suspects as Assistant Sub-Inspector Umar Daraz and Constable Syed Nadir Ali Shah of the Sindh Reserve Police, Constable Syed Shahid Ali of the Special Branch, private persons Junaid, Zuhair Kamal, Saddam Siddiqi and Kamran alias Preedy.

He said that Kamran Preedy was an alleged hitman belonging to the militant wing of a political party.

He was arrested and jailed multiple times and was involved in selling automatic weapons to detained policeman Nadir Shah.

The Rangers official said that suspect Shah travelled by air to bring arms from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on forged licences. He said he did this around 30-35 times.

The Rangers claimed to have seized nine different types of arms including two G-3 rifles, 18 magazines of different weapons, several rounds, 140 fake arms licences including computerised arms licences along with Nadra forms, 233 fake documents of different kinds, 75 fake certificates of matriculation, intermediate and graduation degrees.

The law enforcers also recovered seven fake driving licences.

Besides, several stamps of different government institutions were also recovered from their custody. The stamps included 131 fake stamps of deputy

commissioners of Karachi, Thatta, Qambar-Shahdadkot, Jafferabad, Lasbela, Nawabshah, Quetta, Malakand, Jacobabad;
foreign ministry; interior ministry;

banks; universities; educational boards; Rangers Special Task Cell; Central Police Office, etc.

The Rangers said that on a lead provided by the held suspects, computers, colour printers, card printing and cutting machine, lamination machine, stationery and printing material were also seized.

“The gang has been active in this business for the last 10 years,” the Rangers official said.

The detained suspects disclosed that during the 10-year period they sold between 7,000 and 8000 fake arms licences, 3,500 and 4,000 fake degrees, several fake driving licences and several no-objection certificates of different institutions.

Major General Mohammad Saeed, the Rangers director general, congratulated the paramilitary force and police and appreciated their professional capabilities for taking action against such an organised gang.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 17, 03/12/2017)

Karachi police chief inaugurates Madadgar 15 helpline centre

In order to ease the citizens' complaints and eliminate prank calls, Sindh Inspector-General (IG) of Police Allah Dino Khawaja inaugurated on Monday the police helpline, Madadgar 15's, new building in the premises of the Airport police station.



Karachi Additional IG Mushtaq Mahar, the Special Branch AIG, zonal DIGs and district SSPs were among several police officials present on the occasion. Former IGs, including Aftab Nabi, Mushtaq Shah, Babar Khattak and Fayyaz Leghari, also attended the ceremony. Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) chief Zubair Habib also attended the inauguration ceremony.

IG Khawaja briefed the participants about the latest equipment and software installed at the centre. The Madadgar 15 mobile application, call centre operator location identification and map location for mobile phone users, confirmation of task by police force and response about the task are included in the facilities provided by the new centre.

IG Sindh inaugurates 9110 helpline centre

The citizens can now download the 'Police 15' application from the Google Play Store on their mobile phones and also register themselves on the centre's website, www.police15madadgar.com. The registered citizens will be given priority.

“This modern centre will help improve police performance to help the citizens,” said IG Khawaja, adding that the accountability of the DSPs and SHOs concerned will be more transparent now.

“The role of the CPLC will also prove beneficial in this centre,” said the IG, adding that the process to outsource Madadgar 15 is under way, while the Sindh government is the final authority to take a decision in the matter.

“I am thankful to the Sindh government, especially the chief minister,” said Khawaja. “After being outsourced, the new 15 helpline will have latest recording systems and properly trained staff to handle calls and promptly react to complaints.”

Police helpline in Karachi to get 100 mobile vans

He said that for the first time in the history of the Sindh police, the monthly welfare budget has been increased from Rs55 million, adding that the Sindh police welfare currently has Rs400 million in reserve.

“The process to turn a Sindh police hospital at the police headquarters in Garden into a modern hospital will also start soon,” the IG said.

Mahar said that there would be a complete elimination of prank calls with the inauguration of the latest centre. He appealed to the citizens to only inform the police about criminal cases and avoid complaints about personal issues.

“The Madadgar 15 helpline and its vehicles have been separated and now this centre, its force and vehicles will not be used in duties for VIPs,” he clarified, adding that 500 more motorcycles with latest cameras installed will be a part of the centre by the end of February next year.
(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 14, 05/12/2017)

Killing of teenaged driver

GIVEN our pervasive gun culture, it is no surprise that society has suffered fatalities, trauma and injuries caused by shootings including everyday firearm-related violence. This unchecked gun culture is the reason behind the fatal shooting of a teenaged driver on Sunday morning in the aftermath of a hit-and-run accident near Karachi’s Clifton beach.

According to reports, when an 18-year-old student driving a Mercedes hit a motorcyclist and failed to stop, he was chased by armed men in an SUV. Although the biker survived, his friends fired several rounds of bullets killing the young driver on the spot and injuring another passenger.

Though there is no justification for not stopping after hitting a vehicle, it is the fear of frenzied mobs known to assault those behind the wheel, whether or not they are at fault, that keeps many drivers from halting.

In this incident, while the police have apprehended the culprits who have confessed to their crime, the question of gun-control measures, and the non-implementation of stringent controls for the use, licensing, display and possession of guns has come to the fore.

This utterly senseless shooting and incidents of similar gun violence (the Shahzeb Khan murder in 2012), where perpetrators are young men easily provoked into violence, raises several points.

First, in certain incidents lax parental control is partly to blame when young people have access to guns — especially disturbing is when adults protect young perpetrators of violent acts.

Secondly, with an ill-equipped and overstretched security apparatus, the government is clearly hesitant to implement existing rules curbing unnecessary gun use. Consider here the thuggish, private armed ‘militias’ accompanying politicians, state ministers, feudal families and such, displaying their weapons and harassing ordinary citizens.

Meanwhile, clamping down on fake gun licences and conducting stringent background checks, including mental and drug testing for gun permits, is imperative. Eliminating gun culture when gun laws are openly flouted is a complex but necessary task if society is to be protected from violent and illegal ‘retribution’.
(Dawn 08, 05/12/2017)

Three SHOs suspended over corruption in Karachi

Senior police officials suspended on Tuesday the Gulistan-e-Jauhar police station house officer (SHO) for patronising illegal activities, construction and encroachment and harassing law abiding citizens. Two more SHOs were also suspended by the officials over their alleged involvement in criminal activities.



The suspended SHOs were Rao Zakir of Gulistan-e-Jauhar police station, Wilayat Shah of Sharafi Goth and AD Chaudhry of Shah Faisal Colony. They were suspended by Zone East police chief DIG Sultan Khawaja after being found guilty during inquiries.

Pindi police officer suspended for aiding alleged land grabber

“Tariq, a citizen, appeared before the East Zone DIG and made a complaint against inspector Zakir, who picked up labourers from Tariq’s under construction plot in Gulistan-e-Jauhar and demanded a bribe to release them,” said Khawaja’s spokesperson, adding that following the complaint, an inquiry was conducted and SHO Zakir was placed under suspension.

“There were some other complaints against him as well that he was patronising illegal activities, construction and encroachment and he was harassing law abiding citizens who were constructing their houses in his area of responsibility. Further inquiry is under way,” said the East DIG’s spokesperson.

One of the complainants told The Express Tribune that Zakir was harassing them after they bought land in Gulistan-e-Jauhar from the Karachi Development Authority (KDA). “Over three months have passed since we acquired the land from KDA,” said the complainant, who wished not to be named. “However, since then we are unable to do construction work on the land.”

Two policemen suspended for assaulting Karachi citizen after video goes viral

He said that the Gulistan-e-Jauhar police, using the names of some senior officials of the District East police was continuously harassing them by detaining the labourers working on the site and impounding the machinery. He added that the senior police officials should conduct an inquiry to find out the involvement of senior police officials who were backing the SHO as the SHO was not acting alone.

Khawaja, however, while talking to The Express Tribune said that Zakir also registered a fabricated FIR against a renowned businessman on the complainant of the land grabber. “The SHO was found involved with a land grabber – Abdul Raheem Rind – who is also wanted in 54 cases of land grabbing,” Khawaja explained.

“Interestingly, one of the nominated accused in the fake FIR of a kidnaping was not even in the country for the last three years,” Khawaja said.

Police official suspended for harassing transgender woman

Replying to a question about the involvement of some other senior police officials, Khawaja said that the inquiry is still under way and those found involved will be dealt with according to the law.

Separately, two other SHOs were suspended after being found guilty of involvement in running the vice dens in their areas.

Police officials said that the special police team of District East conducted a raid within their areas and found the vice dens running, despite clear directions for its elimination by the Sindh inspector-general. The two SHOs were helping the gamblers running the vice dens illegally by getting hefty amounts from the gamblers.

The East DIG spokesperson said that a special team conducted a raid at a gambling and narcotics den and recovered a huge quantity of drugs and arrested gamblers in the limits of the Sharafi Goth police station. The den was being run under patronisation of the Sharafi Goth SHO, who was receiving Rs200,000 per day against his support.

The SHO was placed under suspension and a departmental proceeding has been intimated against him. Meanwhile, the Shah Faisal Colony SHO was also suspended.
(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 06/12/2017)

‘Militant’ sentenced to death for killing polio worker

An antiterrorism court on Wednesday sentenced a man to death in a case pertaining to the murder of a polio worker.

Afsar Khan, said to be a member of a banned militant outfit, was found guilty of killing Umer Farooq, a young volunteer associated with an anti-polio campaign, in December 2012 in a Sohrab Goth locality.

The ATC-IV judge read out the conviction order after recording evidence of witnesses and concluding arguments from both sides.

The court observed that the prosecution produced ample evidence and the case stood proved against the accused beyond a shadow of a doubt. The eyewitnesses had identified the accused and deposed against him before a judicial magistrate as well as before the trial court.

The court also directed the convict to pay a compensation of Rs200,000 to the legal heirs of the deceased.

The judge also ruled that the death sentence was subject to the confirmation of the high court.

According to the prosecution, the 30-year-old victim was returning home and passing through Sohrab Goth on his motorcycle when he was targeted. Police had arrested the accused in 2013 in another case in the Mehmoodabad area and during questioning he also disclosed his involvement in the present case, it added.

He was associated with a banned militant outfit and part of a larger gang which was active against polio workers, it said.

A case was registered under Sections 302 (premeditated murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) read with Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 on the complaint of the deceased's brother.

(Dawn 18, 07/12/2017)

Proposal to book street criminals under terror law shelved

A proposal of the law enforcement agencies about registering cases against street criminals under terrorism charges to eliminate the menace has been turned down on "technical and legal grounds" as legal experts believe that such a move against the arrested suspects cannot stand up in a court of law for conviction, officials and sources said on Wednesday.

The suggestion from the law enforcement agencies — both the Karachi police and Pakistan Rangers, Sindh — to bring terror charges against street criminals has often emerged during off- and on-the-record interactions between officials and the media. In July, the Rangers gave a detailed briefing to the Sindh apex committee about street crimes and recommended that the cases be registered against such criminals under the anti-terrorism law.

However, a senior official said that after months of deliberations and discussions within the law enforcement institutions and feedback from their respective legal branches, it emerged that the terror charges against a street crime suspect would not serve the purpose and the prosecution would most likely fail to prove its point in a court of law.

Legal experts suggest charges under Anti-Terrorism Act may not stand up in court

"The law enforcement agencies first discussed it within their respective institutions," said a senior police official wishing not to be named.

"During preparation of the proposal, the police authorities arguing in favour of applying the anti-terror law against street crime suspects say that such armed men in fact cause panic and fear in the society when they rob any individual or a group on a road, street or thoroughfare."

However the legal experts, he said, when contacted and brought into the discussion did not agree with the argument declaring it weak when it would come to a court of law.

In case of an FIR registered under sections of the anti-terror law, the prosecution would find it hard to prove it in court, the police officer said citing feedback from the legal experts.

Street crimes pose a huge challenge

Despite a significant decline in other criminal activities, including targeted killing on ethnic, sectarian and political grounds, and terrorism-related incidents amid Rangers-led targeted operation in the city, street crimes remain a challenge for the law enforcement agencies.

In 2016 when major criminal activities saw a significant drop in the city, robberies and incidents of theft and snatching of motorcycles and mobile phones — key indicators of street crimes — witnessed a sudden rise when compared with 2015 crime data.

The Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) crime data of the past two years says that incidents of motorcycle theft had increased by 25 per cent in 2016 as compared to 2015 though motorcycle snatching incidents had dropped by 15pc during the same period.

Similarly, mobile phone snatching incidents had increased by 10pc in 2016 as compared to 2015.

The official data of registered crimes provided by the Karachi police and the CPLC shows the failure of authorities to rein in street crimes while throwing into question the very effectiveness of the ongoing targeted operation, which has completed its fourth year in the metropolis.

The authorities argue that it is not only the capability of the police force and effective strategy on the part of the law enforcement agency, but there are other multiple elements as well which are missing for a forceful fight against street crimes.

“The suggestion to introduce anti-terror charges against the suspects was made in the same spirit, but we couldn’t make it. There are other measures as well which need to be addressed on a fast track. The key proposal is regarding technological assistance to win this fight [against street crimes] and for that the police can only suggest and wait for the execution from the quarters concerned,” added the official.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn 17, 07/12/2017)

Have no fear, the anti-street crime police are here

Street crime like snatching of mobile phones, cars or jewellery has always been a burning issue in Karachi, particularly in posh localities of the city. To check the rising number of street crimes in the city, the police have introduced an anti-street crime force in areas falling under Defence Housing Authority (DHA) and the Cantonment Board Clifton (CBC).



Thieves roam parts of DHA and CBC on motorcycles, targeting citizens and snatching their valuables on a daily basis. Over a dozen such incidents have been reported in the past month alarming the residents of the area as well as the local police.

Everyday street crime headlines appear in the news and it is nearly impossible to find a single resident of Karachi who has never fallen victim to a mugger.

Faizabad fiasco: Police reveal why crackdown went awry

Residents complain that different groups are involved in committing the crimes and are looting people at the busiest intersections in Defence and Clifton.

“They [snatchers] don’t care whether you are on a motorcycle or in a car or alone or with a family,” said Mani, a resident of DHA Phase VIII whose mobile phone was recently stolen on Khayaban-e-Ittehad. “The situation throughout Karachi is the same. It has happened to me in other parts of the city so what is the difference between a posh locality and other parts of Karachi?” he questioned. Mani recently

shifted to DHA from District Central and was deprived of his mobile phone while on his way to pick up his brother from his office near the Defence police station.

Khayaban-e-Shujaat, Khayaban-e-Ittehad, Khayaban-e-Shahbaz, Badar Commercial and Khadda Market are hotspots for the petty criminals, who usually rob people between 6pm and midnight.

DHA hit-and-run case: Main accused gets AC room at police station

Problem resolution

Following the rise in the number of incidents, the authorities have introduced a new specialised anti-street crime police force in DHA and Clifton. "We have introduced a specialised police force to counter street crimes [in these areas]," confirmed District South SSP Javed Akbar Riaz. "This force comprises young, smart newly-recruited cops who have been provided newly-modified motorcycles," he said.

The force's jawans have helmets, bulletproof vests, pistols, sub machineguns (SMGs) as well as wireless sets to coordinate with each other. "We have deployed them at every intersection to keep an eye on the situation and arrest muggers before they commit any crime," explained SSP Riaz. "We also have a plan to install cameras on [the policemen] to monitor and record their movement and activities."

SSP Riaz said that besides a motorcycle force, 10 police Corolla cars and 15 police mobiles have also been designated to control street crime in the area.

Police hid info on who gave order to shoot

He said that only three incidents of street crime had been reported to the police station recently while most cases are not reported. "Most of the crimes are only reported on social media. The complainants don't approach the police," he claimed. "The police have made arrests and even made recoveries of the looted valuables in all the three reported cases."

SSP Riaz also gave an example of a citizen, Sarmad, who was mugged on Khayaban-e-Shujaat a few days ago. His Iphone, Samsung Galaxy phone, Apple watch and cash was taken away in the incident and the police were able to recover the items.

According to the officer, the investigators unearthed an inter-provincial racket of snatchers, purchasers of stolen phones, experts who dismantle the phones and sellers who dispose of the phones in the form of spare parts and accessories.

Residents believe that the street criminals are coming to DHA and Clifton from surrounding low-income areas such as Shireen Jinnah Colony, Akhtar Colony, Shah Rasool Colony, Jackson, Delhi Colony, Qayyumabad, Hazara Colony and Azam Basti.

Residents demanded the police enhance snap-checking and patrolling at the entry and exit points to these areas. "Street crimes can be controlled if the police ensure proper vigilance at the entry and exit points," said Ammar Khan, a resident of upscale Clifton neighbourhood. "They [muggers] have easy access to the posh areas and they immediately return to their areas after committing crimes in DHA and Clifton."

Capital gets new IG police

On the other hand, police officials said that they were doing proper vigilance in these areas. "Recently we arrested two teenagers for their involvement in street crimes in DHA and Clifton. It is unbelievable that they were looting people using a fake pistol and succeeded in their criminal activities," revealed SSP Riaz. "But in such cases, people don't want to take the risk and hand over their valuables to the criminals."

During a recent meeting of the police and CBC, it was also decided to have regular interaction to remove the gap between the police and residents. Citizens should also put forward concrete proposals instead of merely criticising law enforcement agencies, suggested the meeting.

“We don’t want criticism; we want a joint effort by the CBC, DHA and police because no one can eliminate crime alone,” said CBC Vice-President Aziz Suharwardy. “We will ensure regular meetings are held to promote cooperation and we will work to understand how we can work more efficiently.”
(By Faraz Khan THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 15, 08/12/2017)

DSP, other police officials involved in framing man, CTD tells court

The Counter-Terrorism Department of police informed on Friday the administrative judge of antiterrorism courts through a reinvestigation report that a deputy superintendent of police and other officials were found involved in wrongfully detaining a citizen and framing him in an explosives case.

The report recommended that a case be lodged against CTD DSP Hafeez Junejo, sub-inspector Aslam Qureshi, ASI Mubashar and others for illegally detaining Zulfiqar Ali Abbasi at CTD Garden and registering a forged case against him.

While declaring Abbasi as innocent, the reinvestigation report also suggested action against the investigating officer, inspector Syed Sarfaraz, for charge sheeting the suspect in a fake case.

Police claimed to have arrested Abbasi in Bhimpura area on July 4 and lodged a case against him over alleged recovery of seven hand grenades on the complaint of sub-inspector Aslam Qureshi.

On July 25, IO inspector Sarfaraz submitted a charge sheet against the detained suspect before the administrative judge of ATCs and the case was sent to ATC-19 for trial.

However, the mother of Abbasi approached the police high-ups and informed them that her son was picked upon from home and framed in a fake case. Thereafter, the reinvestigation of the case was ordered.

DSP Waqar Shah of CTD conducted fresh investigation and submitted a B-class (bogus case) report before the administrative court.

The report said that the ASI along with other policemen raided the house of the suspect on July 2, picked him up and detained him at CTD Garden, adding that police had shown him and some other suspects arrested on July 4 under Section 54 of CrPC.

It further stated that on an application of the detainee’s family, a judicial magistrate raided the CTD Garden on July 4 and found the suspects in custody while the police had shown the entry of 54 CrPC to the magistrate, but produced nothing regarding any recovery.

As soon as the magistrate left the premises, police lodged a case against Abbasi under Sections 4/5 of Explosive Substances Act read with Section 7 of Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, it added.

The reinvestigation report further said that the suspect was found innocent since two members of the raiding party as well as independent witnesses deposed that he was picked up from his house and no recovery was made.

Earlier, the SSP (Operation) also conducted an inquiry and concluded that hand grenades were not recovered from the suspect and he was also not a terrorist, it maintained.

The report stated that on the directive of DSP Junejo, SI Qureshi and ASI Mubashar, in collusion with a private person, Khalid, booked the detainee in a fake case by foisting seven hand grenades upon him and also keeping him in wrongful confinement.

Therefore, it recommended a case against the DSP and others under Section 220 (commitment for trial or confinement by person having authority who knows that he is acting contrary to law) of Pakistan Penal Code and Sections 4/5 of Explosive Substances Act read with Sections 7 and 21-I (aid and abetment) of ATA.

The reinvestigation report also suggested action against the IO inspector Sarfaraz under Section 27 (punishment for defective investigation) of ATA.

The administrative judge sent the reinvestigation report to ATC-19 to dispose of it in accordance with law. (Ishaq Tanoli Dawn 17, 09/12/2017)

Guns and egos — the Karachi dilemma



The plot is all too familiar by now. A young delinquent, high on his father's economic prowess and political clout, shoots someone. Then he smiles for the cameras as he is taken to court, knowing all too well that he is above the law.

No, this isn't a badly-written movie script. This is reality – all too familiar for far too many families who have lost their loved ones to gun-wielding 'untouchables' living in Defence Housing Authority (DHA). Most cases are not reported for fear of repercussions. Those that do make it to the mainstream media, often after having made rounds in social media, lose steam quickly.

Take the recent case of young Zafir Fahim Zubairi for example. He had only just celebrated his 18th birthday, excited about the prospects of finally being allowed to drive. He had been practicing for months with his father and also with a registered motor driving training centre.

On the morning of December 3, six days after his birthday, Zafir was shot dead in an incident of road rage as he drove around Do Darya with his friends. He hit a motorcyclist, sped off and was chased and gunned down by a group of men. The perpetrator was later arrested by the police.



Shahzaib Khan, the young son of police officer Aurangzeb Khan, was killed in a similar manner on December 25, 2012. The case sparked country-wide debate on abuse of power by the scion of a wealthy family, Shahrukh Jatoi. The latter was later seen making a victory sign as he was escorted to court.

Sulaiman Lashari, another unsuspecting teenager, was killed outside his house in DHA. The 18-year-old was shot dead on his balcony a little after midnight on May 8, 2014 as he was studying an exam the next day. The primary accused in the case, Salman Abro, son of then Sakrand Police Training Centre SSP Ghulam Sarwar Abro, was alleged to have committed the crime over a petty issue.

Murder charges registered against prime suspect in DHA hit-and-run case

Unfortunately, there are common threads in all these cases – the support given to these youths by their well-connected parents who provide them guards and weapons and the lack of implementation of the law by law enforcement agencies.

The high-profile Shazaib murder recently took a dramatic twist as the Sindh High Court (SHC) set aside the death sentence awarded to Shahrukh and ordered a retrial of the case. Shahrukh, the son of an influential feudal lord, Sikandar Jatoi, had filed an appeal in SHC against his death sentence. The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in June 2013 had awarded him and his friend Siraj death sentences for killing Shahzaib. Two other accused, Sajjad and Lashari, were given life imprisonment. Meanwhile, Sulaiman's case is still pending.



However, the police have acquired the remand of Khawar Burney, the son of an influential man – Ishtiaq Burney – till December 11. Khawar is accused of killing Zafir. Home Minister Sohail Anwar Siyal has also sought a report from the South DIG and investigations SSP regarding the incident.

Civil society also held a march on Saturday to express their solidarity with Zafir's family at Seaview. The march was attended by a large number of people, including police officials.

But the question is, after Shahzaib, Sulaiman and Zafir, who will be next?

No values

"In my honest opinion, these are isolated incidents in Karachi, a city that has a population of more than 20 million people. In America these kinds of incidents occur every few months in which 20 or 40 people are killed but thank God the situation here is not as bad," said District South SSP Javed Akbar Riaz. "The police's past was very bad. But now it has changed now and there is no one above the law. Earlier, everyone thought they were above the law and they did not fear the police," he explained.

Pursuers of hit-and-run car kill teen driver in DHA

The officer said that part of the issue is that parent's fail to instill proper values in their children. "Providing sophisticated weapons to their teenagers is totally wrong and this culture should be stopped," he urged.



Giving the example of the people's mindset, SSP Riaz said that few days ago, he stopped a man in an SUV who violated a traffic signal. "When I chased and intercepted him, he told me he would call the corps commander. But when I called the traffic warden and asked him to challan him for the violation, the man immediately apologised to me because he knew he was not above the law," he explained. "We have to continue our professional practices to make people aware that no one is above the law."

SSP Riaz said that there were several dens of vice – guesthouses where illegal activities take place, liquor and shisha shops – in DHA with powerful people backing them but the police have finally shut all of them down.

"Until and unless we establish our writ, no one will obey the law," he explained. The officer said that everything that is legal is allowed, even heavy motorcycle racing, but those breaking the law will be dealt with accordingly. He said that these cases often occur around the city but are highlighted in DHA.

A parent's plea

"Parents have to keep a check on their children," stressed Fahim Zubairi, the father of first-year student Zafir who recently became a victim of gun culture. "Parents should keep monitoring the activities or movement of their children. They should know when, where and whom their children are meeting. They should have a list of contact details of their children's friends. I always had a list of contact number of Zafir's friends," he said.

The grieving father has vowed to bring an end to gun culture, especially among youngsters. "Taking a selfie with guns is not a big issue but having guns, owing them and using them in public to kill innocent people is a huge problem," he said.

Karachi's influential prisoners are living the dream



Besides parents, the second step is of law enforcement agencies as laws should be strictly implemented. "Until people are not held accountable and still use political or other influence [to get out of crimes], this culture will continue to be promoted," Zubairi said. "The intolerance amongst youngsters should also be eliminated."

He said that his lawyers are fighting the case and he is especially thankful to the home minister for his efforts in getting justice to his family and taking immediate action against the culprits.

"This culture has been promoted now and its elimination will take time. Implementation of the law by law enforcers and better [parenting] are the best ways to eliminate this culture," he explained.

Weapon-free Karachi

Former Citizens-Police Liaison Committee chief Ahmed Chinoy demanded that the city be made free of weapons. "There should be a complete ban on arms – licensed or unlicensed both should be banned," he said. "People from different walks of life are living in Defence. They are the richest people. They are feudals with each having almost 50 security guards with sophisticated weapons," he said.

The former law officer said that these youths are learning all these unlawful activities from their own homes. "When a son of a feudal or a wealthy man living in Defence goes to school with 20 security guards, what will he learn from them?" he questioned.

SHC orders fresh trial in Shahzeb Khan murder case

He said that these people are very influential. "They know that they can buy the police, lawyers and even their opponents because they have power and money," accused Chinoy. "Can you imagine that Karachi has a police force of some 30,000 officers while there is an army of over 100,000 private security guards with better weapons than the police? This is the biggest issue in Karachi," he lamented.

Speaking about the Shahrukh case, he said that whenever he leaves jail, he always makes a victory sign. "I want to ask one thing – what message does he want to convey by making that sign?" he questioned.

Part of the problem

"Gun culture is present in the whole of Karachi but Defence is in the limelight because of [the residents] as every second politician, bureaucrat, feudal, police official and businessman lives here," said Cantonment Board Clifton Vice-President Aziz Suharwardy. "They have guards, most of whom are illiterate from rural areas and are with their children in the name of protection."

He stressed that there is a dire need for reforms in society. "In Defence, there is not only a gun culture. There is a gun plus VVIP culture," he said. "It is the responsibility of the government to eliminate or demote this culture but those [officials] who could do it are themselves part of the problem."

(By Faraz Khan THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 14, 11/12/2017)

12,000 police officials found delinquent in Sindh, SC told

The Supreme Court was on Tuesday informed by the provincial authorities that 12,000 police officials were found involved in misuse of powers and had patchy backgrounds.

Headed by Justice Faisal Arab and also comprising Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, a two-judge bench was hearing a case pertaining to the involvement of policemen in crime, at its Karachi registry.

At the outset of the hearing, the home department placed on record a fresh report, informing the court about the action taken against the police officers with patchy records.

Senior officers involved in crimes, including abetting murder, illegal confinement

The report said that DSP Nisar Ahmed Brohi was compulsorily retired after he was found guilty of illegally recruiting 134 constables.

According to the report, former IGP of Sindh Ghulam Haider Jamali, former AIG Finance Fida Hussain, SSP Ghulam Azfar Mahesar, Matiari district SP Amjad Ahmed Shaikh and other top-rank policemen's conduct was found illegal.

The report said that Sharea Faisal SDPO Shakeel Ahmed Sarfaraz was imposed a penalty of reduction in pay scale as he had illegally confined a lawyer and his wife at his police station.

The report said that action against 21 officers of grade 17 was initiated after they were found involved in illegal activities.

It said the SDPO of Garhi Khairo, Jacobabad, DSP Abdul Majeed Abro, was issued a show-cause notice as he was nominated in the murder case of a 15-year-old girl. The DSP was accused of facilitating the murder of a girl, Aneela Dharpali, who was declared kari, by handing her over to her parents in 2012.

Earlier, the SC had directed the secretary for establishment division, government of Pakistan, and the Sindh home secretary to submit comprehensive reports regarding the action taken against 35 police officers of grade 18 and above; and 31 officials of BS-17.

During a previous hearing, provincial Inspector General of Police A.D. Khawaja had submitted a report, informing the court that there was no discrimination in initiating action against the delinquent officers as the same was taken against low-ranking officers without delay.

The IGP had told the judges that up to the level of BS-16 the police department was competent to take disciplinary action; the police chief could not take action against officers of grade 17 and above. He added that the home minister was the competent authority to take action against officials of BS-17, and for BS-18 and above the chief minister had the powers through the SGA&CD.

A.D. Khawaja had informed the apex court that he had sent the list of 31 officials of BS-17 to the home department and another list showing misconduct of 35 officers of BS-18 was sent to the chief secretary.

The bench put off the matter to a date to be later pronounced by the court's office.
(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn 17, 13/12/2017)

Cases of 66 senior cops forwarded for action

Sindh Inspector-General (IG) of Police Allah Dino Khawaja informed the Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday that action had been initiated against 12,000 police officers involved in official misconduct and criminal activities.



This was disclosed in a report filed with a two-judge bench during the suo motu proceedings regarding action against the police officers having patchy service records. Comprising, Justice Faisal Arab and Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, the bench was hearing the matter at the SC's Karachi Registry.

In the report, IG Khawaja informed the court that action had been taken against 12,000 officers and officials who had patchy service records. He said it was recommended to the competent authority to take action against 66 senior police officers over the allegations of their involvement in corrupt practices, negligence from duties and offences.

SC seeks master plan of Karachi

The report said that out of the 66 senior police officers with patchy records, 35 were working in BPS-18 to BPS-21, while 31 were working in BPS-17.

The police chief informed that 184 officers working in BPS-16 and below had also been penalised through departmental proceedings according to the law.

Hearing on appeals

In the meantime, the same bench directed the provincial advocate-general (AG) and other lawyers to make arguments on the appeals filed by suspended police officers as well as the provincial government against the Sindh Services Tribunal's orders regarding suspension and reinstatement of the police officials and officers for having patchy service records. The matter will be taken up in the fourth week of January, 2018.

SC orders inquiry into Mehmoodabad treatment plant's land allotment

A number of the suspended police officers had approached the apex court against the decisions of the Sindh Services Tribunal.

They alleged that the competent authority had ordered their removal from service following inquiries initiated on the recommendations of an SC-appointment inquiry committee probing into the allegations of their involvement in criminal activities.

The petitioners argued that the inquiry committee, headed by AIG Sanaullah Abbasi, had taken discriminatory action against them by removing them from service to save other officers, who were favourites of the committee members.

'If the KDA DG's salary is stopped, he will wake up'

They alleged that the committee had not recommended any action against other police officers as they were their favourites.

Therefore, the removed officers pleaded to the apex court to declare that the action taken against them was illegal and based on discrimination.

On the other hand, the provincial government also moved appeals against the decisions passed by the Sindh Services Tribunal in cases of some police officers who were proceeded against for their patchy service records but the tribunal ordered their reinstatement. The government pleaded to the court to set aside the service tribunal's orders for the police officers' reinstatement.

Justice Shah observed that it did not appear that the committee had acted against the police officers on the basis of nepotism. "There are at least 50 cases each against [every] officer [who was dismissed]," he remarked.

Govt has two months to act against 'patchy' cops

However, the bench members made it clear that the cases of only those petitioners, who had been punished twice, will be heard and decided. It directed the Sindh AG and petitioners' lawyers to argue on the matter in the fourth week of January.

(By Naeem Sahoutara THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 13/12/2017)

Lawbreaking police

IT is difficult to know quite what to make of the Sindh authorities' reported action against some 12,000 police officials at various levels of service for allegedly misusing their power, contravening the law, or simply sleeping on the job. Punitive measures have apparently been taken against the law enforcers for misdemeanours ranging from illegal recruitment of police personnel, to holding citizens in unlawful confinement, to even in one case being nominated in an 'honour' killing case. If the rot within the provincial police department runs so deep, why has it become the cause for action only now? And if it is a case of better late than never, then we can only appreciate the fact that the Supreme Court has pursued the matter relentlessly, until the Sindh authorities had no choice but to furnish the answers. And thus it was that on Tuesday, the provincial home department placed on record a fresh report concerning the issue before the two-judge bench at the Supreme Court's Karachi Registry that was hearing a case pertaining to the involvement of policemen in crime.

The Sindh government has over the years proved itself intolerably blithe over matters of governance, including those that most closely concern the citizenry — law enforcement and policing are the subject at hand here, but a host of other examples are available, from water and sanitation to the provision of basic amenities. Perhaps the greatest tragedy this has brought about — and the police force is a case in point — is that the government's actions have impeded even those committed individuals who strive to decently discharge their duties. Where the Sindh police department is popularly characterised as inefficient and corrupt, it is also a reality that it is shockingly under-resourced, undertrained, and shackled to short-term political interests. The interference of the political elites in the functioning of the department is almost a given at every level and even includes the jockeying over appointments to the highest positions of authority. At the other end of the spectrum is the fact that an unreasonably large number of personnel — as high as 30pc of the Karachi force, at one point — are diverted towards VIP duty, starving the ranks of both men and morale. It is perhaps no less than tragic that it has taken the prodding of as high a forum as the Supreme Court to nudge the slumbering provincial government into action.

(Dawn 08, 14/12/2017)

Rangers chief sees street crimes as big challenge for law enforcers

The director general of Pakistan Rangers, Sindh, on Wednesday agreed that the menace of street crimes was still a major challenge for his force and law enforcement agencies in the city, where a targeted operation has been under way for the past four years.

However, Maj Gen Mohammad Saeed claimed that the number of incidents of heinous crimes such as targeted killings, extortion, kidnapping for ransom etc registered a significant decline in the metropolis because of the Rangers-led targeted operation.

He said this while talking to a group of media persons at his office, according to a Rangers spokesperson.

Calls for trying street criminals under Anti-Terrorism Act

During the interaction in which he defended the performance of his organisation by presenting comparative data that suggests a significant drop in almost every crime, the Rangers chief made it clear that the paramilitary force would not allow any political party to resort to violence, take up arms or work against the integrity and solidarity of the country.

He said prior to the targeted operation, launched in Sept 2013, around Rs80 million to Rs100m extortion was collected from citizens, but in 2017 extortion cases had come down considerably.

He claimed that “no incident of terrorism” — bomb explosions or suicide bombings — occurred in the city during 2017.

He said that 45 people, including many policemen, fell prey to targeted killings in the current year.

He said the Ansarul Sharia Pakistan outfit was involved in 15 incidents of targeted killings.

The Sindh Rangers chief said Karachi was at number six in the world crime index in 2013 and now its ranking had been improved as the city stood at 52.

He said over 1,400 criminals allegedly involved in street crimes were arrested and handed over to police for further legal action in 2017.

He proposed that cases against street criminals and robbers should be registered under the Anti-Terrorism Act to curb this menace.

He hinted that the Sindh home department was working on such a proposal.

The Rangers DG said that the solution to elimination of street crimes lay in the use of modern technology.

Bike snatching/theft increased

Data provided by the Rangers revealed that incidents of snatching/theft of two-wheelers registered an increase in 2017 compared to 2016.

A total of 24,848 motorbikes were either snatched or stolen during 2016 compared to 25,038 two-wheelers snatched/stolen so far in 2017 in the provincial capital.

As many as 1,781 four-wheelers were snatched/stolen in 2016 and a total of 1,377 cars were snatched or stolen this year so far.

The number of incidents in which people lost their mobile phones stood at 35,410 in 2016 compared to snatching/theft of 28,164 mobile phones so far in the outgoing year.

According to the Rangers' data, a total of 89 targeted killings took place in 2016 and the number was reduced to 45 in 2017.

As many as 101 cases of extortion were reported in 2016 compared to 52 such cases this year.

A total of 26 kidnapping for ransom cases took place in 2016 compared to 13 in 2017.

The data also showed that a total of 16 cases of terrorism took place in 2016 but no such incident occurred during the current year.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn 17, 14/12/2017)

Sindh increases security for places of worship after Quetta church attack



Reacting to the terrifying attack on a church in Quetta, the Sindh government on Sunday raised the security bar to protect worship places belonging to religious minorities across the province.

Provincial home minister Sohail Anwar Siyal asked law enforcement agencies to tighten security arrangements in and around the worship places and other places of religious significance for the non-Muslims against any possible threat.

Officials said the minister also asked for increasing security for mosques, shrines, Imambargahs etc.

“Those who are adamant to destroy peace in the country are ulcerous and the entire nation is united against their nefarious designs,” said the minister.

Officials said the worship places of the minorities were already being protected — though, with limited resources — yet the government’s order to raise the bar might have a little impact on the existing arrangement.

“Police guards and other law enforcement agencies have been posted with the limited manpower and strength in the province. It requires more funds and manpower to raise the bar,” said a senior official in the home ministry.

Nation is united against those adamant to destroy peace in country, says minister

Officials said a project costing Rs400 million was being launched to make safe temples, churches and other places of worship across the province.

They said the ambitious project would chiefly invest in the purchase of surveillance cameras, planned to be installed in and outside more than 1,200 places of worship across Sindh.

The provincial government has initiated a project in which security surveillance cameras would be installed at temples, churches and gurdwaras.

“This project will greatly enhance the level of security at places of worship and protect the rights of minorities,” claimed a senior official.

He said the project involved establishment of a modern surveillance and monitoring system at each place of worship using multiple video cameras installed at strategic locations around it.

Officials added that the project was planned in line with the directive of the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party’s chairman, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, after a number of attacks on temples in Larkana, Hyderabad and other districts of Sindh during the past three years.

After those attacks, the provincial government deployed security on an average of less than two police guards per worship place across the province.

The Sindh Police have prepared a report and sent it to the home ministry saying that a total of 1,253 worship places belonging to the religious minorities had been documented in Sindh, which included 703

Hindu temples and 523 churches. Besides, 21 such places belonged to Ahmadi community and the remaining six are Sikh gurdwaras.

A total of 2,310 policemen have been deputed to guard all those places.

According to district-wise break-up of the worship places given in the report, most of them — 494 to be precise — are situated in Karachi, which included 387 churches and 107 temples.

Karachi East has the most churches (200) followed by 116 in Karachi West and 71 in South district. Most temples (61) are documented in Karachi South, followed by 39 in Karachi East and seven in West district.

Hyderabad has 238 worship places, including 156 temples and 72 churches while 10 belonged to Ahmadi community.

Similarly, Benazirabad and Mirpurkhas have respectively 50 and 112 temples, 12 and 21 churches and six and five Ahmadi establishments.

Larkana has 141 temples, seven churches and five gurdwaras while Sukkur has 137 temples, 24 churches and one gurdwara.

Officials said there are 232 policemen deputed to guard 239 churches and temples in Karachi East — less than one for a worship place. To bridge the gap, they added, 11 guards have been provided by various NGOs in the district.

The security cover to 116 churches and seven temples is much impressive in Karachi West where 364 policemen have been deployed while NGOs have provided 43 additional guards.

In Karachi South's 132 temples and churches, the authorities have provided 213 policemen while NGOs have stuffed them up with 83 additional guards.

The report also documented five violent attacks on worship places of religious minorities during the recent past — all of them against Hindus.

Three temples — Radha Kishan in Hyderabad, Shanga Bhawani in Makli, Thatta and Hanuman in Tando Mohammad Khan — and a Dharamsala in Larkana were attacked.

Officials in the home ministry conceded the deployment of security was generally disproportionate in districts, particularly in Karachi East, where the number of policemen was less than the number of worship places they were supposed to secure.

(By Hasan Mansoor Dawn 15, 18/12/2017)

Total ban on issuance of arms licences demanded

The rising incidents of gun violence in the country is an alarming trend, said civil society members gathered at a PMA House seminar on Sunday to raise their concerns. The event was titled 'Peace and deweaponisation'.

With gun-related injuries and fatalities becoming a norm in the media and hundreds and thousands of gun-violence victims confined to the emergency ward, the organisers, Citizens Against Weapons [CAW], called for "a complete ban on issuance of all licences, surrender and buy-back of all weapons and elimination of all private militias".

CAW member Naeem Sadiq spoke about how gun licences were being handed over to people on the "basis of favouritism, who are in a position of influence, status, power or price. Without any medical or mental test, without any training or background checks, gun licences are being given and these are obstacles in the way of de-weaponisation."

Addiction to weapon and power was also a recurring problem, with some citizens of the country, and even parliamentarians, being unable to survive without these arms. "There are hundreds of militant private armies in Pakistan; most are powerful enough to capture small cities while some are powerful enough to capture the capital of Pakistan," he said.

'First step towards de-weaponisation should be that we go for public interest litigation'

He deplored that the government was not taking its due responsibility for security related situations and as a result there was an increase in the number of armed individuals.

Former senator Javed Jabbar made a case for galvanising all those organisations working in the domain of human rights and to form a coalition for achieving the cause of de-weaponisation. That included politicians, he said.

"Don't write off politicians. If you engage in dialogue with them, they are actually going to listen to you. We need to indulge the political element of this country, which itself encourages the use of licensed or unlicensed weapons, to become part of this coalition. We need to engage the state, the civil and the military. The real challenge is how do we do it?"

Dr Seemin Jamali, executive director at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, recalled her decades-long experience in which she has witnessed innumerable cases of trauma and death in the hospital's emergency department. "Our society has seen a surge in violence and it is about time we do something about it. At an average the JPMC witnesses five to six gunshot wounds. Firearm deaths come in daily, too, which is a separate number."

She also spoke about the need to question how poor communities also had access to firearms. "The poor man no longer studies, has left the book and taken up the gun for easy money. There is a state of anarchy and people are taking the law into their own hands. How can we talk about formulating laws for de-weaponisation when the very people who are to form these laws are themselves taking the law into their own hands and use guns to do so," she said.

Dr Mirza Azhar Ali, secretary general of the PMA, spoke about how the doctors' community had suffered greatly at the hands of armed individuals, with scores being shot dead around the country. For him the losses of his colleagues went unnoticed by the government until the doctors went on strike. Then, too, despite pledges to compensate the grieving families, the government went back on its promises.

Ubaidullah Gilani's death is an example of how victims of gun violence must face an untimely end and that the families they leave behind also suffer. His father was present at the seminar and shared how after the loss of his son the family had still been unable to find its bearings and their grief was endless. He appealed to the authorities and government institutions to offer unlimited support to such families as they had a tough journey.

AMI School teachers Zakia Kirmani and Bareen Khan offered a unique perspective on how to raise young children in schools with regards to the fascination they had for firearms. Both were of the opinion that instead of rebuking children for asking uncomfortable questions, they should be told to think creatively and come up with solutions for conflict resolution as violence to solve problems was never the answer.

Nazim Haji said weapons gave people an additional power to sort out issues. "Weapons are not a need for a peaceful society. To mobilise such a movement everybody needs to take part. The first step towards de-weaponisation should be that we go for public interest litigation and all the points highlighted at this seminar should be compiled in a very strong and winning case to the high court or the supreme court."

Speakers at the seminar appealed to all those who have a stake in the city and the country to take inspiration from the seminar and start taking practical steps towards de-weaponising society.

A performance by Ahsan Bari of Sounds of Kolachi was also part of the lineup.
(By Haneen Rafi Dawn 15, 18/12/2017)

Civil society takes up Shahrukh Jatoi's release

After the conviction of Shahrukh Jatoi under the Anti-Terrorism Act was set aside, civil society moved the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday challenging the Sindh High Court order. The high court had ruled that Shahzeb Khan's murder did not fall within the Act's ambit and therefore set aside the conviction of Jatoi and three others who were recently released after a compromise was reportedly reached with the deceased's family.



Ten civil society members, including Jibran Nasir, Jamshed Raza Mehmood, Afiya Sherbano Zia, Naeem Sadiq and Faheem Zaman Khan, filed the appeal at the SC's Karachi Registry.

The petitioners said that they have the legal right to appeal and challenge the judgment, arguing that this is an issue of public importance and involves acts of terrorism, especially considering the fact that the state has consented to the judgment and the legal heirs of the deceased person have compromised with the respondents.

They argued that the unfortunate and gruesome murder of Shahzeb resulted in creating fear, panic and insecurity amongst the people residing in the Defence and Clifton vicinities and the public in general in Karachi and Pakistan.

"This is evident from the various newspaper clippings published in relation to the aforementioned incident. It was reported that hundreds of people had come out on the streets demanding justice for the deceased on the grounds that the same could happen with their children," they said.

Shahrukh Jatoi released on bail

"This is because such unfortunate incidents are prevalent in our society," the petitioners informed the court, adding that one such incident is the murder of Sulaiman Lashari, who was murdered in his home by Salman Abro and his armed guards.

The petitioner said it was pertinent to mention that Abro and the other accused were being tried by the anti-terrorism court concerned and the judgment in Shahzeb's case will affect all similar cases.

The petitioner informed the court that on December 25, an FIR was lodged by Shahzeb's father in relation to his murder. However, Jatoi belonged to an influential family and managed to flee Pakistan to avoid arrest.

Thereafter, the SC took suo motu notice of the murder and pursuant to various orders passed in a constitutional petition, Jatoi was brought back and arrested.

The police had charge-sheeted the suspects on February 18, 2013 before ATC-III, which framed the charges against the accused on March 7, 2013.

However, after framing the charges, Jatoi moved an application under Section 23 of the ATA for the transfer of the case to the court of ordinary jurisdiction, but the trial court had dismissed this plea.

The trial court's order was challenged before the SHC, which on May 15, 2013 conclusively decided the question of jurisdiction in the following terms.

SHC orders fresh trial in Shahzeb Khan murder case

The judges held that the "act of accused Shahrukh Jatoi created a sense of helplessness and insecurity amongst the people...where offence was committed and did destabilised the public at large. As such, provisions of Section 6 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 are fully attracted in this case."

They further held that the case would fall within the jurisdiction of the ATC and ordered the trial court to decide the case expeditiously.

Jatoi challenged this order in the SC which, on October 21, 2013, also refused to grant leave to the respondent in the following terms: "This criminal petition is barred by eight days, but not accompanied with any application for condonation of delay. Otherwise too, after the final judgment passed by the trial court, this criminal petition seems to have become infructuous, as the question of jurisdiction can now be agitated before the appellate court seized of the matter."

The petitioner argued that it was evident from the SC's aforementioned order that the criminal petition for leave to appeal against the high court's order was not maintainable as it was at the time barred by eight days and Jatoi had failed to file an application for condonation of delay.

Through this order, the petitioners argued that the SC had not issued any direction in respect of the SHC's order. Secondly, the passing observations given by the SC can in no manner be considered directions issued by, or even obiter dicta of, this court.

Thirdly, the observations do not set aside the high court's judgment, therefore, May 15, 2013 is binding on any subsequent divisional bench of the SHC adjudicating the same issue in the same case.

They argued that another bench of the SHC on November 28 set aside the convictions and sentences awarded by the ATC to the respondents on the grounds "that this case did not come within the jurisdiction of the Anti-Terrorism Act, and was triable by the ordinary court. The high court remanded the case back to the relevant sessions court for denovo trial including the consideration of the compromise application filed by the accused and the legal heirs of the deceased."

Activists set to contest SHC ruling in Shahzeb murder case

The petitioners highlighted that a murder appeal was disposed of by the SHC in just six pages, adding that the family of the deceased did not pursue the appeals pending before high court and entered into a compromise with the respondents.

Moreover, the Sindh prosecutor-general, who was the highest criminal law officer on behalf of the government, had flatly conceded to setting aside the conviction by the ATC "which is a sheer proof of the collusion between the respondents and public officers especially in view of the past history of this case where prosecutors were changed repeatedly."

Thirdly, the SHC's division bench relied on the SC judgment passed on June 15, 2013 in a case in which was clearly distinguishable and did not consider the SC's judgment in another case.

Therefore the petitioners argued that they were forced to file this appeal because the state, through the PG, had conceded to the case of the accused persons and consented to the SHC's judgment and as a consequence, the state had abdicated its legal and moral responsibilities to safeguard the rights of the citizens in the criminal justice system.

The petitioners said that for unexplainable reasons, even the legal heirs of the deceased persons consented to the SHC's judgment although they had rigorously contested the case in the trial court and as a consequence, they are unlikely to file any appeal.

"In view of the aforementioned facts, it became the constitutional and moral duty of the petitioners to file an appeal in order to maintain the confidence of...to dispel the emerging perception that the criminal justice system can be manipulated by the powerful and," the petitioners said.

They pleaded to the apex court to grant them leave against the SHC's order.

(By Naeem Sahoutara THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 13, 27/12/2017)

In memory of 58: Another year, more terror



The menace of terrorism reared its ugly head in Lahore again during 2017 as the city was victim to five attacks which claimed at least 58 lives and left another 250

people injured. In four of the cases, police has not been able to make any substantial progress with regard to the investigation.

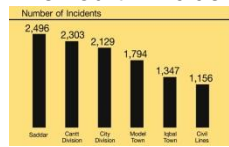
The first incident occurred on February 13 on Mall Road when a suicide bomber targeted a protest of paramedics. As a result, at least 13 people, including seven policemen, were killed and 85 people were injured. DIG Captain Mobeen Ahmad and SSP Zahid Nawaz Gondal also lost their lives in the incident.

The second blast occurred at a café in a market in Defence Housing Authority on February 23. At least eight people were killed and 39 were injured in the incident. However, authorities claimed there was no evidence to suggest that the incident was caused by an explosion.

The third incident was a suicide blast targeting a census team on Barki Road on April 5. Seven people, including four army men, were killed and 22 were injured in the incident.

Democratic Pakistan best way to pay tribute to Quaid, says Marriyum

The fourth incident occurred on July 24 on Ferozpur Road where a suicide bomber detonated his explosives near a group of policemen who had gathered to supervise anti-encroachment action. A total of 26 people were killed and 58 were injured in this particular attack. The final incident occurred on Outfall Road in the Lower Mall police precinct where an explosive-laden fruit truck exploded. The incident claimed two lives and 46 others were injured by the explosion. The incident occurred on the scheduled route of the rally of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif.



Investigations into terror incidents

The Punjab Counter Terrorism Department, which has been investigating all these cases, could not solve any except the Mall Road suicide blast. Investigators had identified the main facilitator, Anwar-ul-Haq, and the suicide bomber, with the help of CCTV footage provided by the Punjab Safe City Authority. Anwar was arrested and later killed in an encounter in Barki in April.

As far as the blast at the café in Defence was concerned, the investigators could not reach to any conclusion. After three hours of initial investigations, CTD claimed that it was an explosive blast. Later, they retracted this statement and declared the incident a cylinder blast. Subsequently, the Lahore police formed an investigation team, headed by DIG Investigations Sultan Chaudhry, to probe the matter.

In the case of the attack on the census team in April, 2017, CTD could not find any further clues to the investigations. They had collected forensic evidence, conducted DNA tests and geo-fencing of the area. The department had also taken at least four people into custody from the area, but failed to arrest a prime suspect or facilitator involved in the incident.

In the Ferozpur Road blast, the CTD could not reach any substantial development in the investigations. According to probe details, the suicide bomber had come to the site of blast on a motorcycle. A few suspects associated with the bike were taken into custody. However, there was no substantial development which could lead to the arrest of the involved facilitators or masterminds of the attack.

Sadiq urges joint fight against terror

In case of Outfall Road, CTD blamed the negligence of police and other departments, saying it led to the incident. According to investigations, the owner of the parking lot, where the truck was park, had told Lower Mall police that a suspicious vehicle was present in the area with a strange smell emanating from it.

Bike lifting	4,657
Burglary	2,826
Robbery	2,272
Car theft	549
Other vehicles theft	360
Motorcycle snatching	315
Dacoity	34
Car snatching	12

Police, rather than taking any action, asked the complainant to leave the police station. During further investigations, CTD found that the truck was registered against name of two people through the alleged forgery of agents and officials of the Excise and Taxation Department. The suspects in this regard were arrested, but investigations that could lead authorities to the prime suspects, facilitators and masterminds.

(By Muhammad Shahzad THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 05, 27/12/2017)

Misuse of blasphemy law

WHEN the FIA informed the Islamabad High Court the other day that it had no evidence that the five bloggers abducted and detained for many days had committed blasphemy, it did not add anything to the people's knowledge as they had known this fact all along.



The FIA admission, however, confirms this case as one of the most blatant misuses of the blasphemy law in recent years and as such it merits closer examination.

Four bloggers — Prof Salman Haider, Ahmad Waqas Goraya, Asim Saeed, and Ahmad Raza Naseer — were picked up between Jan 4 and 6 this year. (A fifth victim was picked up later on.)

Their abduction and detention had certain unique features. The abductors knew that two of the victims, Goraya and Saeed, who were living abroad would be available in Lahore at the time of their abduction.

The latter could not have been unknown to the authorities, especially in view of the fact that no ransom was asked for the victims' release and the questions they were asked were not even remotely related to blasphemy.

Records confirm the extensive use of the blasphemy law to settle personal scores.

Accusing the bloggers of blasphemy was apparently an afterthought. A social media page calling itself 'Pakistan Defence' first made such allegations and later on a private citizen was reported to have done so.

Unless evidence to the contrary is produced it will be impossible to reject the impression that these bloggers were deprived of their liberty and allegedly subjected to torture for their views.

Records confirm the extensive use of the blasphemy law to settle personal scores, to grab the victim's property or to attack his sect (when prayer leaders of Muslim sects are accused of blasphemy). Indeed, proper research might confirm the view that misuse of the law exceeds its legitimate application!

The government paid little attention to the need to save innocent persons from suffering, and often heavily, for being falsely accused of blasphemy when the much-maligned human rights defenders raised this issue. But it should have woken up when the Supreme Court observed the following in the Mumtaz Qadri case:

"It is an unfortunate fact which cannot be disputed that in many cases registered in respect of the offence of blasphemy false allegations are levelled for extraneous purposes and in the absence of adequate safeguards against misapplication or misuse of such law by motivated persons, the persons falsely accused of commission of that offence suffer beyond proportion or repair.

"The majority of blasphemy cases are based on false accusations stemming from property issues or other personal or family vendettas rather than genuine instances of blasphemy, and they inevitably lead to mob violence against the entire community."

In the same case, the court ruled that criticism of the blasphemy law did not amount to committing blasphemy as had been asserted by a counsel who, incidentally, had been a judge of the high court.

A consensus has thus developed over the past many years that something should urgently be done to protect the victims of false accusations. A few religious leaders, such as Maulana Fazlur Rahman, too, have, off and on, backed such suggestions.

Some circles have proposed legislation to punish those who falsely accuse anyone of blasphemy. But that will offer little protection to the victim of false accusation.

For one thing, relief might come to him after much suffering and for another, he could be made to pay for court biases in favour of the person making a false charge.

What is needed, therefore, is a safeguard against arrest and trial on a false charge.

Such a course was proposed by the National Commission for Human Rights in its submission to the Senate's Functional Committee on Human Rights.

While forwarding the NCHR's report its chairman said the following:

"Provisions of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) on offences relating to religion are viewed incompatible with Pakistan's obligations under the international law, including the guarantees on freedom of expression, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and equal protection of the law ... repeal or substantial amendment in blasphemy laws to bring them in line with Pakistan's international legal obligations may not be immediately feasible. However, procedural safeguards should be developed to prevent misapplication or misuse of the law relating to the offence of blasphemy."

The procedural changes proposed by the NCHR are: i) amend section 156-A of the Criminal Procedure Code to include all blasphemy-related offences (295-B, 298-A, 298-B and 298-C of the PPC) with a view to reducing prosecution on false accusations; ii) ensure effective enforcement of Section 156-A of CrPC (investigation of a 295-C complaint by an officer not lower in rank than an SP); iii) ensure that prosecutors/investigators act impartially and pursue only bona fide cases; iv) register cases of perjury against complainants/witnesses whenever required; v) trial of blasphemy accused by sessions courts judges; vi) as a temporary measure, trial under 295-C of the PPC may be made subject to federal/provincial government sanction; vii) Schedule II of CrPC may be amended to make all blasphemy-related cases (Sections 295 to 298-C) bailable; viii) Section 295-A of the PPC may be removed from the list of scheduled offences under the Anti Terrorism Act; ix) there is no reference to repentance in the substantive law, whereas those who repented were forgiven by the Prophet (PBUH).

It may be possible to improve upon these suggestions but they could perhaps serve as the basis of a serious effort to create effective and before-trial protection to falsely accused persons.

For obvious reasons, the bloggers' case has reignited the administration's desire to further restrict the space for social media. This matter will be discussed in detail on some other occasion. But it may be necessary to advise the powers that be to develop some tolerance of light-hearted swipes at the authorities who invite attention for their lapses and questionable actions. After all, cartoons and caricatures of the high and mighty authorities are accepted as an appropriate means to remind them of their slip-ups.

(By I.A. Rehman Dawn 08, 28/12/2017)