

# NEWSCLIPPINGS

**JANUARY TO JUNE 2020**

## SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE



## Urban Resource Centre

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### **Girl falls into open manhole**

An open manhole claimed the life of a minor girl in Surjani Town on Friday, according to police and rescue officials.

They added that Kehkashan Zeeshan, four, had gone missing from her home in Sector-C at around 12 noon and her body was found from the same area in the evening.

Area police officer Haroon Rasheed said that the minor girl had fallen into the manhole and drowned.

(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 16, 11/01/2020)

### **Another spanner in the works of TP-III**

Inaugurated in July 2018 by former Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, the Sewerage Treatment Plant (TP-III) Mauripur has once again been deferred owing to various reasons. According to sources, the installation of the plant remains on pause despite the arrival of the required machinery at the plant. Meanwhile, the construction of the previous TL-I has been treading water due to the soaring dollar prices and the subsequent inability to import machinery.

Despite the federal government's approval of the revised PC-I for the Greater Karachi Sewage Plan (S-III), construction work on the Phase-II Malir River has remained stagnant, while the provincial government has decided to hand over Phase-II to the World Bank.

The S-III project was initiated in 2013 and intended to reach completion within two years. However, the cost of the project has remained a bone of contention between the federal and provincial governments for five years.

As per the Supreme Court's directives, Karachi Water and Sewage Board (KWSB) was assigned the charge of repairing the old machinery at the TP-III by the year 2018. Upon repair of old machinery and installation of the new machines, about 77 million gallons per day (MGD) sewerage waste is being treated and disposed into the open sea. However, the old machinery is reportedly prone to malfunctioning and has been repeatedly disrupting operations at the treatment plant.

"Once operational, the S-III project can effectively treat up to 460 million gallons of domestic sewage," informed a source at the water board. The cost of the project was initially estimated to be around Rs 7.9 billion, but later swelled to a whopping Rs 36 billion due to various reasons.

Where the project is to be completed by December 2020 as per the directives of the Supreme Court, the source reveals that considering the current situation the project is more than likely to be delayed for several years. "In 2008, all three treatment plants – TP-I, TP-II, TP-III – had become dysfunctional; causing 460 million gallons of untreated daily sewerage to be dumped into the open sea. Although TP-III was partially restored in 2018 and treated over 77 MGD, the old machinery often gives up resulting in untreated sewerage flowing into the sea."

According to Project Director Hanif Baloch, the S-III project has two phases. Phase I represents the Lyari Basin, which involves working on 33.32 kilometres of pipeline and conduit installations. The TP-I system covers the site area of Haroonabad, while TP-II will be linked to Mauripur Road. Under the plan, TP-I will process 100 MGD of waste while TP-III will have the capacity of 180 MGD, which is estimated to cost Rs 21.31 billion.

Meanwhile, the Phase-II Malir river basin will have a sewerage trunk of 22.74 kilometres and the system will be connected to the TP-IV at Korangi, which itself has a sewerage treatment capacity of 180 MGD. This phase will cost Rs 14.79 billion.

The project director revealed that the KWSB and Sindh Government have jointly decided to hand over the charge of Phase II and the construction of the Malir basin and TP-IV to the World Bank. "The World Bank will now conduct its own environmental studies and other surveys which is likely to further delay the project but Phase I of S-III comprising of the Lyari river basin, TP-I and TP-III will be completed in December 2021," the director claimed.

Baloch also denied the claims about faulty machinery at TP-III being the cause of operational disruptions. He maintained that all machinery at the treatment plant has been functioning properly and treating sewerage waste at optimal capacity before dumping it into the sea.

"Operations at TP-III are being run by a private company; the water board has yet not taken charge of the system and the plant is making use of both, old and new machineries. The private company has to fix a few minor technical glitches before the water board takes over the system. However, other components of the S-III project have run into delays and the water board has directed the private company to import the required machinery at the cost previously agreed upon in the contract and to also ensure immediate installation of the imported machinery."

The development work for laying transmission lines in the Lyari River has been divided into two phases. Phase I involves the transmission line from Yasinabad to Mauripur, which has already been laid in the river while Phase II includes the installation of the transmission line going from Yasinabad to Surjani Town, which is still underway. "Although work on the second phase started soon after the approval of the revised PC-I, development work was halted for three months due to the monsoon rains," informed Baloch.

"Development work for the S-III project has been awarded to various contractors. The reconstruction of the treatment plants TP-I and TP-III has been awarded to the same company, while the contract for installation of transmission lines in the Lyari River has been awarded to different companies," told a KWSB official on conditions of anonymity.

According to the water board official, the fault is in rebuilding TP-I and TP-III, which requires new machinery to be installed if the treatment plant is to be made operational. Both these contracts, the official explains, have been awarded to the same private company which lacks experienced staff. "The company had imported machinery a year ago but the lack of competent staff and other factors has delayed their installation. On the other hand, the machinery for TP-I is yet to be imported and the company has been citing increasing dollar rates as a factor. However, it must be noted that the company did not have the shipment when dollar rates were low."

The official said that S-III has been facing continuous delays and it is expected to experience further delays. Although the federal government approved the revised PC-I last year, the actual problem lies in the delivery of funds to the Sindh government. The provincial government has repeatedly complained about the federal government not paying Sindh's share as per the NFC award, which has been a factor behind Sindh government handing over the charge of the project to the World Bank.

According to the official, the real issue lies with the company's incapability to complete the project and its failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract. "It is reported that a key figure within the Sindh Government has been backing the company, which is why authorities have been reluctant to act against the contract violations by the company," the source informed The Express Tribune.

(By Syed Ashraf Ali The Express Tribune, 04, 27/01/2020)

### How to achieve clean-up of Karachi's Nehr-i-Khayyam

THE Sindh chief minister has recently given his consent for signing an agreement with a private party for the development of Clifton's Nehr-i-Khayyam. He said that this would be a gift to the people of Karachi and it would be for families to have picnic and enjoy sailing in boats.



Mr Shah needs to keep the gift aspect in the background because clean-up of a water body is a very time-consuming and complicated process.

If the people of Karachi use the Nehr while its water quality is poor, the people will suffer from waterborne diseases, water-washed diseases, water-based diseases and water-related vector-borne diseases.

#### Contains septage, not water

A visit to the Nehr shows that it is an extremely polluted water body. It emits very strong pungent smell and does not contain water. It contains septage, which is a combination of liquid and solid material as found in septic tanks and cesspools. Septage contains four major types of human pathogenic (disease-causing) organisms: bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and helminths.

Its physical characteristics make septage difficult to treat. High levels of grease, grit, hair and large solids in septage can clog pipes and pumps. The anaerobic nature of septage results in the presence of odorous compounds. Foaming can also be a problem when air is blown into the septage. The proponents intend to establish waste-water treatment plant for septage treatment. This will not be feasible and should not be done. Putting septage in a municipal waste-water treatment plant will spoil the pumps and other mechanical equipment.

*The Nehr water in its present state can be a source of waterborne diseases*

Currently, the Nehr receives the raw municipal waste water. The site visit also showed that it has almost no water flows. The constituents were stagnant, indicating that its inlet and outlet are probably blocked. The bottom constituents of the water body seem to be comprising of odour-emitting substances. Water quality improvement, therefore, will be the major component of the Nehr's development.

Karachi does not have a proper sewerage system. Wherever system exists, the 'invert' levels of sewer pipes were never maintained properly. Waste water at the farthest upstream end cannot flow down to the final outfall point, unhindered. Sewer pipes are now laid in ad hoc fashion. To secure a way out, the storm-water drains are used for conveying waste water. Besides, as is the present case, the sewer pipes drain in the Nehr to dispose of the waste water.

#### Clean-up strategy

The first thing the sponsors should do is to stop flow of waste water in the Nehr. At the same time, a detailed survey should be carried out to see that there are no other inlet pipes, draining in the water body, especially the industrial effluent.

The second step should be that of sediment dredging and removal of solid waste. The dredging will be a problem for workers and for the people living in the adjacent buildings.

Still, this will not be enough. Since septage is hazardous to human health, it must be stabilised with lime. Lime or other alkaline material is added to the septage to raise the pH to 12 for a minimum of 30 minutes. While the septage characteristics vary, approximately 20 to 25 pounds of lime are used for every 1,000 gallons of septage (2.4 to 3.0 kg per 1,000 litres).

The pH must be measured to ensure that pH 12 is achieved and maintained for 30 minutes. After pH 12 is reached, pH should be measured every 15 minutes using a pH meter. If the pH drops below 12 during the 30-minute period after mixing, more lime or other

alkali must be added. The pH of the mixture must be maintained at 12 or greater for a full 30 minutes. The septage can then be disposed of by applying at 20 centimetres depths on sand beds.

**Canal should be filled with fresh water**

Once the canal bed is cleaned, the third step should be securing the canal linings through stone pitching, and embankment reconstruction.

The fourth and important step is that of filling the canal with water. The sponsors say that 40 per cent of the water that will be filled will be treated waste water. In Karachi, there is currently no waste water treatment that is working at over 90pc of treatment efficiency, which produces treated waste water of acceptable quality. The use of treated waste water will mean the use of "raw waste water". This will spoil the water quality and will be a waste of time and money.

The sponsors must not use waste water. The canal should be filled with fresh water. It is admitted that obtaining fresh water will be a problem, but then, there is no way out, other than to pray for rains, heavy rains.

Once the Nehr is filled with fresh water that will not be the end of the story. Since the water body has almost no flows, it means, over a period of time, the water quality will slowly deteriorate. To prevent this, the aeration technology, commonly used in Bangkok for this purpose, shall be adopted.

Well-designed cage rotors, fabricated locally, which the writer used at the North Karachi aerated lagoons waste-water treatment plant, will do the job. Inspection of the water body, once the work is completed, would show the number of cage rotors that will be required and their mounting and placement details.

During operation of the cage rotors, the public should be kept away, as aerosols created by the splash of water, produced by the cage rotors, would be injurious to human health, upon inhalation.

Construction activities for dredging, septage removal, solid waste cartage and other activities at the site will involve the use of heavy machinery and trucks. It will produce noise, vibration, create air pollution, create muddy runoff, safety hazards and traffic congestion. Environmental protection measures will be required as integral parts of the engineering works.

An environmental assessment of the project will be required. While the environmental impact assessment (EIA) is commonly used in Sindh to assess the impacts and monitor mitigation activities, the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is used globally.

The chief minister may ask the people of Karachi to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Nehr only when its water quality meets required guideline values.

(By F.H Mughal Dawn, 13, 06/02/2020)

**SHC displeased at delay in action against illegal outlets from canals**

The Sindh High Court has voiced displeasure over the Sindh irrigation department's slackness in taking action against illegal direct outlets drawing water from the irrigation canals.

The Hyderabad circuit bench, consisting of Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui and Justice Muhammad Faisal Kamal Alam, during the hearing on Thursday noted that the ministry had failed to implement March 8, 2018, order of the SHC over the (same) matter. It rejected the two dossiers which the Sindh irrigation secretary had submitted at the last hearing.

"Under the law they (the irrigation officials) were required to submit (in the SHC) detailed list of the direct outlets on the main canals which are prohibited under the irrigation laws," the court observed, referring to Section 5 of the Sindh Irrigation Act, 1879. "But they have made evasive replies since the orders were passed on March 6, 2018," it added.

The court ordered the secretary irrigation to submit an affidavit disclosing the number of direct outlets in the province so that further action could be ordered.

Referring to the three identical petitions of Mazhar Ali, Ghulam Nabi Shah and Mumtaz Ali against the outlets and the water theft, the bench said those public interest litigations had been pending for long.

"... They (the petitions) require immediate attention to curtail and curb such exercise," the bench stated. The SHC directed the secretary to submit the affidavit within 10 days before adjourning the hearing to Feb 25.

The petitioners earlier pointed out to the court that the Sindh government had also promulgated an ordinance in 1999 to declare some 107 direct outlets then existing in the province as illegal. They also pointed out the implementation of water rotation in the canals of Naseer division in violation of the law which had declared those canals perennial.

Govt ensures tail-end receives water, says minister Sindh Minister for Irrigation and Auqaf Sohail Anwar Siyal said in Tando Mohammad Khan after visiting sections of Phulelli Canal rehabilitated under Sindh Water Sector Improvement Project (WSIP) that the government was making every possible effort to supply water to tail-end areas.

He said that there were complaints about water shortage in tail-end areas owing to some technical problems in Akram Wah and the government would soon initiate work to address this issue with the financial help of the World Bank.

Sida chairman Abdul Basit Soomro said that water was reaching up to tail end after 30 years after rehabilitation works of Mithrao, Nara, Ghotki and Phulelli canals.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 17, 07/02/2020)

### Sanitation talk

At a recent gathering at Parliament House, speakers highlighted Pakistan's challenges with regard to sanitation — particularly the lack of toilets, clean hygiene practices and waste management which gives rise to a host of illnesses and infections in the population. Due to the absence of even basic infrastructure, open defecation is not an uncommon sight in cities, towns and villages across Pakistan, often close to waterways; this poses a risk not only to public health, but also to the environment. Additionally, poorly constructed sewerage lines can lead to human waste seeping into irrigation channels, which contaminates the water used for drinking and growing crops. Water-borne ailments such as diarrhoea threaten the lives of mainly young children. According to Unicef, over 22,000 children around the world die each year from diarrhoea, and it remains one of the leading causes of death among infants and children in Pakistan. This country also has one of the highest rates of stunting in the world, which is partly attributed to the mismanagement of waste disposal and the lack of awareness of safe hygiene practices within households. Then there is the widespread issue of flies that collect over open sources of waste and transmit the filth to food items, leading to cases of cholera in the population.

According to data shared by the Salman Sufi Foundation — which plans to launch Saaf Bath, a much-needed initiative to provide clean public toilet facilities to the people — approximately 79pc Pakistanis lack proper toilet facilities. The situation is worse for women, with over half of them not having access to proper sanitation in male-dominated societies that so easily overlook, ignore or are openly hostile to their right to exist and move about freely in public spaces. Unfortunately, the lack of toilets is a major governance oversight which has direct implications for the country's economy. According to the SSF, nearly \$2bn are flushed down the toilet each year due to this rarely talked about issue. What a waste, indeed.

(By Editorial Dawn, 08, 23/02/2020)

### For Karachi's women, toxic water makes a tough life tougher

We might talk about empowering women on social forums, but in the developing world, we still haven't reached the point where we might feel accountable for not providing women access to the very basics of life.

The scarcity of clean water is something that has often been addressed, but seldom does the debate take into consideration those who are most affected by it — the women.

In any country, the scarcity of water leaves a disproportionate effect on the lives of women. It is women who take the primary burden of collecting water for their families — an arduous, time-consuming task. According to the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organisation (WHO), women and girls are responsible for collecting water in eight out of 10 households that do not have water available on their premises.

This task also has another impact on their lives — they become more likely to encounter harassment and even attacks while walking long miles to fetch water from shops or reservoirs.

And it's not just about who collects the water. Women need better sanitation and hygiene as they deal with menstruation, pregnancy and childbirth, and breastfeeding. Globally, around a million deaths every year are associated with unclean births, which also account for 26 per cent of neonatal deaths and 11 per cent of the maternal mortality.

#### The reality of unclean water

Every day, Fatima or her daughter trudge to a shop a few streets away from their home in Qayyumabad to fetch clean water. "I do not feel safe sending my daughter to the shop, but do I have another option? Sometimes, when my son is home, I send him, but he is usually away," she says.

Fatima's husband is a driver for an online ride-share app, while her son is normally busy with school and tuition. So the task falls to the women of the family.

It's a common sight in the neighbourhood to see women and girls lugging heavy bottles of water home from the shop, which has a reverse osmosis plant installed on its premises. It's a gruelling task but, says Fatima, they have grown used to it.

"Many mothers here complain that their girls are harassed in the streets as they carry the water home. It's a shame we have to endure this," she asserts. "If the government had provided us clean water, we wouldn't be facing this." Plus, she maintains, her daughter could have gone to school along with her son.

According to several reports, many girls in localities where people live on or below the poverty line have been pulled out of school. There are two basic reasons for this. The added expense of buying clean water forces families to make a choice between this basic necessity and educating their girls. Or, there is simply no water available in the schools for the girls to be able to maintain hygiene while they are menstruating.

Kausar, 21, is very familiar with the latter problem. She says that the tap water in Akhtar Colony, where she resides, is too unclean; when she is menstruating, she is forced to use filtered bottled water for cleaning.

"My mother scolds me every time I take a mug of drinking water to the bathroom, but if I ever wash with tap water, I feel unclean all day," she narrates, adding, "My friends in the neighbourhood often suffer from urinary tract infections, which are also caused by using water from the tap, contaminated by sewage."

### **Spreading disease**

The areas most affected by waterborne diseases in the metropolis are Surjani Town, Malir district and localities close to the Korangi and Landhi industrial zones, including small goths.

"There is no water in the area. Even the schools and hospitals run short of water, which makes matters very difficult for us," says Munawwara, a nurse at a maternity home in Malir.

According to her, with the lack of clean water, maintaining a hygienic environment for women in hospitals is next to impossible. "Many women catch infections from the hospital after giving birth," she discloses.

Meanwhile, a commission on water and sanitation, formed in 2017, revealed in its reports many complaints about women and children turning ill or even dying as a result of toxic drinking water.

### **Why is the water unclean?**

According to urban planner and environmentalist Farhan Anwar, the water being supplied to the affected localities of Karachi starts getting contaminated at the source — and it keeps getting more and more contaminated right until it emerges from the taps in households.

"Surface water is drawn from Kotri Barrage via the Kalri-Baghar Feeder Canal, which is already contaminated by the wastewater coming from the Kotri Industrial Area," he explains. "Then the water is stored in Keenjhar Lake, which is also heavily contaminated, mostly due to raw, polluted agricultural waste discharge."

Then, cross-connections, where water pipelines connect with sources of pollution during transmission and distribution, foul things up even more. This happens when, for example, sewerage water enters the water supply through cracks in the pipelines, which are old and decaying. At times, the pipes pass under garbage dumps, with pollutants seeping into them.

"Since the water supply in Karachi is intermittent and suction pumps are commonly used, vacuum and negative pressure gaps also suck in sewerage from the lines that crisscross with the water supply pipelines," Anwar adds.

And finally, after all this, water in the underground tanks of houses gets contaminated by insects and dust.

### **Widespread pollution**

The Sindh Environment Protection Agency and the National Environmental Quality Standards both state that it is illegal to dispose of poisonous waste in open water bodies. Yet the practice continues.

Researchers and environmentalists who have tested water samples from across Karachi came to the conclusion that the water being consumed by many in the provincial capital is unsuitable for drinking.

Meanwhile, Zahra Ali, an environmentalist and the founder of urban farming initiative Crops in Pots, points out that vegetables here are also grown in contaminated soil as a result of widespread water pollution. This, she says, can be highly dangerous, especially when there are traces of heavy metals in the water. According to her, tests carried out in various areas of Karachi to check the bioavailability of these metals indicates a substantial level of toxicity.

### **Ignoring the women**

While the effects of water scarcity on women are very real, there is a serious dearth of female-specific data for the region that highlights and specifies this daily struggle — and effective policies can only be designed if there is accurate data available.

"Gender-disaggregated data is the need of the time," states the international We Are Water foundation. "The data is essential to develop human geography in connection with water and sanitation, thus obtaining scientific knowledge on gender inequalities." Seemi Kamal, from the Hisar Foundation and Pakistan Poverty Allevation Fund, urges women to raise their voices about water, since they are the ones affected most by these matters. "Women are the primary consumers of water, yet their problems are not addressed when we discuss water scarcity and contamination in public forums."

Ali, an environmentalist, points out that even though women are not generally the decision-makers in Pakistani society, they are still consumers. "As consumers, they deserve the availability of clean water to ensure their health," she says. (By Syeda Sana Batool The Express Tribune, 04, 24/02/2020)

## **Plantation drive kicks off at Nehr-e-Khayam**

As the People and Nature Initiative (PANI) begins its efforts to transform Nehr-e-Khayam into a public park, a plantation drive was kicked off at the contaminated canal on Sunday.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Karachi mayor Wasim Akhtar said that it was his dream to beautify the canal and turn it into a gift for the city. "When I became the mayor, the residents of the area complained about the pollution," he recalled. "For the last three years, we have been planning to clean it and convert it into a better space for the public; architects suggested the solution to us."

He said that when he ordered the removal of encroachments from both sides of the canal, he was accused of trying to seize the land. However, he said, the Sindh chief minister had believed in him and did not pay any heed to this 'propaganda.'

The mayor further claimed that the state of parks in the metropolis had improved, citing the example of Kidney Hill Park, where 30,000 trees were recently planted.

Asserting that the Sindh government valued public-private partnership programmes, adviser to the CM Murtaza Wahab said that the provincial cabinet had approved a 30-year grant for the Nehr-e-Khayam project. "The Sindh government is with the people in working for the environment," he said. "They will work together to solve problems."

Meanwhile, provincial minister Nasir Hussain Shah added that the provincial government would support developmental projects in the city.

According to PANI head Jameel Yousuf, 165 trees have been planted along the sides of the Nehr-e-Khayam, which will not only benefit the environment but also beautify the space. Residents and students from schools in the area joined in to help plant the trees.

Earlier this month, the Sindh government had signed an agreement with the NGO for the park's development.

PANI proposes to clean the sewage water flowing into the canal through sustainable reed-bed technology, while also planting hundreds of trees and bushes as well as constructing jogging tracks and viewing decks for the public.

For several years, sewage has been discharged into the stream, while waste disposal along its banks further exacerbated environmental hazards.

(By Our Correspondent The Express Tribune, 04, 24/02/2020)

### Nehr-i-Khayam

A FEW years ago some engineers designed the sewage treatment plants in Karachi and Hyderabad, which over the years have all but failed, although the technology used, works successfully in the UK and other South Asian countries. Now, another group of engineers is proposing to use reed bed technology to clean the water quality of Nehr-i-Khayam.

For those unaware of how this technology functions, a reed bed works like constructed wetlands, in which the oxygen is drawn down to the roots of the plants (*Phragmites australis* is the most common species used) through leaves.

This is a relatively new technology, pioneered by Dr Kaethe Seidel. It is normally used in 'water treatment' as a polishing unit. The technology is used in outskirts where the water pollution is of less intensity. To date there is no consensus on the optimal design of reed bed systems, and there is restricted information on their long-term performance.

Since the technology is unaided, unlike sewage treatment plants employing aeration, reed bed is highly susceptible to toxic constituents in sewage. Karachi's sewage contains toxic heavy metals and chemicals.

The performance is inconsistent as the treatment efficiencies vary in response to changing environmental conditions, including rainfall and drought. Reed bed technology cannot be relied upon if the effluent quality does not meet stringent discharge standards at all times.

Reed beds are sensitive to pesticides and ammonia. They require a minimum amount of water if they are to survive. They cannot withstand complete drying. Septic tanks, anaerobic ponds or rotating biological contactors, are provided as pre-treatment units, incurring additional expenditure.

A reed bed usually has an open water surface, which promotes mosquitoes breeding. For this reason, reed beds are not recommended as people living on both sides of Nehr-i-Khayam could face massive swarms of mosquitoes, every night.

For setting up a reed bed system, first a sand bed of six inches is laid. This is followed by the impermeable liner (a very costly item).

Then a gravel layer of one foot depth of size 16 millimetres (mm) is laid. This is followed by another gravel layer of eight inches depth of size 4 mm. Finally, a sand bed of four inches depth is laid. These will have to be laid for a length of 2.5 km and a width of 120 feet, the length and width of Nehr-i-Khayam. One can imagine the cost involved!

Since Nehr-i-Khayam turns into a canal during heavy rains, the heavy water flow will simply wipe out the reed bed plants.

The engineers should reconsider the reed bed decision and instead use dependable, trusted and robust technology, normally used in aerobic sewage treatment plants.

A Citizen  
Hyderabad  
(From the Dawn, 09, 25/02/2020)

### **SFA told to file reply on plea against use of sewage for vegetable farming**

The Sindh High Court on Tuesday directed the additional deputy commissioners of five of the six Karachi districts to personally appear in court along with their respective replies regarding action taken against usage of sewage for vegetable farming.

A two-judge bench comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Yousuf Ali Sayeed also directed the counsel for the Sindh Food Authority (SFA) to submit a reply in this regard till March 13.

The directives came on a petition filed by a public interest litigant, who impleaded the provincial and local authorities as respondents for their alleged inaction against the usage of the hazardous industrial and sewerage water for farming by a private company.

The petitioner submitted that water of industrial units and sewage, which was toxic and hazardous to human health, was being used for the purpose of agriculture in the Malir, Korangi, East, West and Central districts of the metropolis without any check by relevant authorities.

The petitioner submitted that the respondents, including the chief secretary, SFA and deputy commissioners concerned had allegedly turned a blind eye towards the practice due to which the health of the people consuming such vegetables was at risk.

*Court summons additional DCs of five Karachi districts to explain their position*

The court was asked to issue directives to the respondents to take remedial measures to stop the practice and also act against the private farming firm.

During the proceedings, Advocate M.S. Bukhari filed power of attorney on behalf of the SFA.

Additional Advocate General Jawad Dero also requested for time to submit a reply in this regard.

The bench directed the office to issue notices to the additional deputy commissioners of the Korangi, Malir, East, West and Central districts to appear in person on the next date to show what action they had taken so far in this regard.

Mohammad Anwar Kumbar, the mukhtiar of district Korangi, appeared before the court and requested for time to submit his reply in this regard.

Allowing the request, the bench also directed him to submit a progress report in respect of his district as to whether sewage was being used for the purpose of vegetable farming and what action had been taken so far in this regard.

The bench also directed the counsel for the SFA to submit a reply and adjourned the hearing till March 13.

### **Plea to enforce hoarding & black marketing law**

The same bench granted three weeks time to the assistant director (legal), bureau of supply and prices, to submit a reply to a petition seeking enforcement of the Hoarding and Black Marketing Act, 1948 to regulate and enforce the prices of essential commodities in the province.

The bench granted time on the request of Mohammad Saleem, the assistant director, and fixed the matter for March 18.

Advocate Mohammad Tariq Mansoor had filed a petition against the federal and provincial authorities for allegedly not enforcing the law meant to control hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities and for not appointing special judges to conduct summary trials of the violators of the law.

The petitioner argued that the people were suffering as relevant authorities had failed to enforce the law and take remedial measures in pursuance of the provisions of the law due to which the prices of daily use items, including eatables, were skyrocketing. The court was asked to direct the respondents to enforce the law and appoint special judges under Section 14 of the act in the province.

(By Naeem Sahoutara Dawn, 15, 26/02/2020)

### **WB to fund drain cleaning in city**

Mayor Karachi Wasim Akhtar on Tuesday asked the district municipal corporations (DMCs) to inform him about the choked drains, especially those needing to be cleaned ahead of the monsoon rains.

He gave the direction after attending a meeting held to review cleanliness of big drains in view of the expected rains in Karachi. The meeting was led by Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and attended among others by the mayor and Education Minister Saeed Ghani.

Briefing the participants, project director Zubair Channa said the World Bank was going to spend \$15 million on cleanliness of the drains and uplift of the landfill site at Jam Chakro. The Sindh government and the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation would assist the World Bank in that regard, he added.



He said that drains' cleanliness would begin next week and a special cell would be established at Jam Chakro for the disposal of the garbage lifted from drains.

The project director said the KMC would provide lists of 38 big drains that were in its control and a feasibility report would also be sent to the provincial government for cleanliness and fixing choked drains under the KMC and DMCs.  
(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 14, 11/06/2020)

### **Mayor expresses inability to clean storm-water drains before rains**

Mayor Wasim Akhtar on Saturday said that the city's municipal administration was unable to carry out cleanliness of storm-water drains as it did not have sufficient funds for the task.

"The monsoon season is just around the corner, but drains' cleanliness has not been started as yet," he said and added that the city could witness a major blow and the provincial government would be responsible if the drains were not cleaned ahead of the wet season.

Speaking at a press conference here, the mayor said that injustice was being meted out to the port city that contributed 95 per cent revenue to the province as no new schemes were given for the city in the next budget.

"Karachi has been deprived of funds for the last 12 years" he lamented and asked who would raise voice for Karachiites, if they [municipal government] gave a walkover to the provincial government.

*Asks Sindh govt to release funds so that people of Karachi can be saved from urban flooding*

The mayor said that the provincial government had released Rs437 million during administrators' rule in 2016 through which cleanliness was carried out and after that Rs500m was also released for the same purpose on the directives of a Supreme Court-mandated Water Commission in 2017-18, but total Rs1.272 billion was spent for the drains' cleanliness. "However, [the remaining] Rs722 million was not paid by the Sindh government to the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation," he added.

He said that drains were not cleaned since 2018 as the KMC didn't have enough funds for the purpose.

"The KMC cannot carry out cleanliness ahead of the rain spell, that's why the provincial government is requested to release funds so that the people of Karachi could be saved from urban flooding," he added.

Mr Akhtar said that the World Bank had to pay \$8 million to the KMC for cleanliness but the amount was yet to be given, adding that it might take more time and the Sindh government should follow up.

Replying to a query, the mayor said that the Pakistan Peoples Party had been ruling the province for the past 12 years but the people were not given even a single bus for intra-city travel.

To another question, he said that he could have resigned way earlier if the issues had been resolved just from resigning.  
(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 15, 21/06/2020)

### **Mayor asks Sindh govt to clean drains to prevent predicted**

Mayor Wasim Akhtar on Saturday once again asked the provincial government to start cleanliness of drains considering the warning of urban flooding by the National Disaster Management Authority and heavy rains predicted by the Meteorological department. He said the drains were full of garbage and it would take many weeks to complete the task.

The mayor asked the provincial government to "stop neglecting Karachi" as it was the economic hub and engine of Pakistan. He passed these remarks while presiding over a meeting held for cleanliness of drains here.

Mr Akhtar said the Meteorological department had predicted 20 per cent additional rains, which could lead to urban flooding. "The monsoon rain spell in Karachi is just around the corner that's why the cleanliness of drains should be started," he added.

He said the provincial government had held all revenue-generating departments with it and asked the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation to increase its revenue. "How could the KMC increase its revenue when it does not have revenue-generating departments," the mayor said.

He said that 38 big drains of Karachi had not been cleaned since 2018, adding that the drainage system of big arteries and underpasses was linked with the drains.

He said he had informed the chief minister about the drains under district municipal corporations but no funds were issued for the DMCs.

Speaking on the provincial budget, Mr Akhtar said that the provincial government once again showed its "enmity to Karachi" by decreasing the number of schemes for the city. He added that the provincial government did not incorporate even a single scheme suggested by the KMC. "It is very unfair that the Pakistan Peoples Party is promoting wadera shahi through its numerical strength in the Sindh Assembly," he added.

The mayor was of the view that the Sindh Local Government Act had lost its spirit as it had been amended so many times. He said serious efforts be made for serving the people of Sindh by keeping “biased politics” aside.  
(By Newspaper’s Staff Reporter Dawn, 14, 28/06/2020)