

# NEWSCLIPPINGS

**JULY TO DECEMBER 2018**

## **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**



### **Urban Resource Centre**

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## **Judicial commission stops authorities from throwing waste into the sea**

The Supreme Court-mandated Judicial Commission on Water and Sanitation ordered on Saturday the authorities concerned to immediately clean the ports of Karachi. The water commission also issued an order to the authorities to stop throwing waste material into the sea and establish treatment plants in the surroundings of all industrial units.

The commission's head, Justice (retd) Amir Hani Muslim remarked that the cleaner the sea is kept, the better it would be for us. He observed that if poisonous and polluted water is thrown into the sea, marine life will be negatively affected.

A hearing on mixing industrial waste and polluted water from shipping ports took place at the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Saturday. Chief Secretary Major (retd) Azam Suleman, navy officials, the Karachi Port Trust chairperson, local government secretary and others appeared in court during the hearing.

### **Judicial commission wants removal of all solid waste in Karachi**

The issue of releasing waste material from ports and industries was examined. The commission expressed anger over accumulation of waste and filth on the port and ordered to constitute a working group comprising federal secretaries to supervise the ports' cleanliness.

Major (retd) Suleman informed the commission that a task force had already been constituted and the fisheries secretary had been appointed its chairperson. Meanwhile, provincial and federal representatives have been made part of the task force. The task force will examine the waste material from the ports and take action accordingly.

Justice (retd) Muslim commented that he would visit the ports himself tomorrow (Monday). The commission head remarked that nowhere in the world was the condition of a port as bad as it was in Karachi and if the condition didn't improve, marine life would decline.

He observed that treatment plants in industrial units were necessary.

The commission also inquired as to how the ports could be kept clean on a permanent basis. Justice (retd) Muslim ordered ensuring the blockage of canals to put an end to waste flowing into the port through them.

In its detailed verdict, the commission ordered the relevant institutions not to throw waste material into the sea. The hearing was adjourned till tomorrow (Monday).

(By Arshad Baig The Express Tribune, 04, 01/07/2018)

## **Encroached drains, poor waste management put Karachi at risk of urban flooding**

Massive encroachments over all major drains, including their outfall points, and the absence of a system to manage solid waste that finds its way into these channels continue to be Karachi's Achilles' heel, putting the city at the risk of flooding in monsoon, experts warned on Saturday.



Sharing their concerns over the city's vulnerability to flooding, they said that Karachi's weak infrastructure could not withstand heavy downpour and it might face a far more serious situation than what was recently experienced in Lahore where rain-related incidents not only caused extensive damage to infrastructure, but also led to 15 deaths.

"Lahore had 177mm rain but Karachi can't withstand even 100mm of rain. There would be deluge everywhere," said Mohammad Yunus representing the Urban Resource Centre.

According to him, Karachi's main civic problem remains a lack of waste management and heavy encroachments over all major drains.

"Over the past decade, all major storm-water drains of the city [over 40 in number] have been encroached upon and concrete structures, including housing colonies, banks, shops and even markets, have been built over these channels," he said.

### ***A proper mechanism is needed for waste collection and disposal to save drains from clogging***

He referred to encroachments on the land owned by the Karachi Port Trust and development of infrastructure by the Defence Housing Authority as well as by the KPT that resulted in closure of discharge points of city's natural drains.

Most flyovers and underpasses in the city, he said, lacked a drainage system and the local municipality had to use motor pumps to drain out accumulated rainwater.

"Local officials often argue that rainwater will follow its natural route and discharge on its own. But, this is not how things work. You have to design the infrastructure in a way that helps prevent accumulation of water," he said.

### **Drains' cleaning brings no major improvement**

Replying to a question about a recent drive of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation to clean up drains, he said so far it couldn't bring a significant improvement.

One reason was the absence of relevant machinery with the KMC.

Salim Alimuddin, an expert on city's drainage system who is associated with the Orangi Pilot Project, was of the view that while the government had done some work and laid new drainage lines where there was a need, the actual problem was that the outfall points of drains remained either encroached or clogged.

"No work has ever been done to clear drains' outfall points. The major outfall points are located in KPT's jurisdiction. Besides, the construction of markets and other establishments over drains is a serious obstacle in clearing passage of rainwater as these channels couldn't be de-silted," he said, adding that the government should have bound project developers to keep a few outlets for the purpose of removing sludge while they were constructing raised infrastructure over drains.

Mr Alimuddin was also critical of prolonged delays shown by the government in cleaning up drains which, he said, should be done at least two to three times in a year.

"Also, it's time a proper mechanism is developed for collection and disposal of solid waste, most of which presently ends up in drains and clogs them," he said.

He also suggested immediate removal of construction material/debris lying along the routes of Orange and Green line bus projects that could aggravate public inconvenience in monsoon.

Prof Raza Mehdi of the NED University of Engineering and Technology's urban and infrastructure engineering department said Karachi's civic conditions were as poor as they were last year and apparently no work had been done to address rain-related issues. "There is no short-term solution and a holistic approach is required to bring improvement in civic conditions, including efforts to create awareness on proper waste collection and disposal," he said.

#### **KMC gets Rs500m to clean 23 drains**

When contacted, KMC's senior director (coordination) Masood Alam explained that the civic body had started cleaning drains and the work was going on at a fast pace across the city.

"We are focusing on 23 major drains with the help of maximum human and financial resource available to us," he said, adding that though the total amount requested for the work was Rs1.28 billion, the KMC had received Rs500 million.

Mr Alam, however, warned that the purpose of the whole exercise would be defeated if the connecting distributaries feeding the big drains remained clogged.

"Those come under the jurisdiction of respective district municipal corporations. Having said that, meetings are being held with all stakeholders and the KMC is doing its best despite heavy encroachments," he claimed.

He rejected an impression that the drains were only cleaned in the monsoon season and said that they were periodically cleaned but the matter attracted media attention only in the context of the rainy season.

According to him, proper management of solid waste can help minimise risk of flooding. Right now, 60 per cent garbage ends up in drains.

"Garbage is constantly being dumped into drains. If this waste is managed and recycled, we can also reap a lot of other benefits," he said.

All storm-water drains in the city had turned into sewage drains and there were no channels left carrying only rainwater, he said.

#### **KPT to install sewage treatment plant**

A KPT spokesperson said that the port authorities were not responsible either for managing drains or the waste coming through them.

"We are directly being affected by this waste [though we are not generating it]. However, the KPT has committed to a Supreme Court-mandated commission to install a plant to treat the waste coming from three drains into the sea," he said.

He declined to comment on encroachment and infrastructure over KPT's land.

(By Faiza Ilyas Dawn, 17, 08/07/2018)

### **Korangi creek biodiversity being destroyed by untreated waste: study**

A recent study highlights how continued flow of untreated domestic and industrial effluents from the city has destroyed the biodiversity of a major creek supporting livelihood of a large number of fishermen.



Titled Impact of indiscriminate disposal of untreated effluents in Korangi creek, the study is conducted at Karachi University's Institute of Environmental Studies (IES) by Prof Moazzam Ali Khan and Dr Aamir Alamgir.

Once carrying freshwater from the Indus river, Korangi creek is a tidal channel receiving highly polluted water from multiple sources, including Korangi and Landhi industrial areas and the Malir river. Constant discharge of solid and liquid waste from Cattle Colony into the creek, the study points out, has increased the load of organic pollutants.

The creek connected with Kadiro, Jhari and Ganglaro creeks is navigable through small vessels and runs parallel to a hilly range starting from Ibrahim Hyderi.

*'Concentration of oil and grease found exceptionally high in water and sediment samples'*

Like rest of the city, towns and settlements along the creek lack a proper system for waste collection and disposal, which is dumped along and into the creek. Fishing villages along the creek include Rehri village, Ayub village, Chashma village and Jamote village. All these factors, the study says, have seriously affected the creek's ecology, causing loss of fishes' spawning grounds. These effects are noticeable in terms of fisheries' quality that has commercial importance, it says.

"The creek provides livelihood to more than 100,000 people who are directly or indirectly engaged in fisheries. Twenty-seven bird species, many threatened or vulnerable, were recorded from this area in 1999," the study says.

**Findings**

Under the study, 38 samples of water and sediments were collected from various spots of and along Korangi creek. It found that its water was primarily polluted by organic load originating from nearby human settlements. The concentration of oil and grease was found to be "exceptionally high in water and sediment samples, which is detrimental for marine life". The mean biological oxygen demand (a measurement of the amount of dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms for decomposing organic matter in water) of seawater tested and sediments was 288mg/l and 1645mg/l while chemical oxygen demand was 1231.9mg/l and 1645mg/kg, respectively.

The national environmental quality standard for BOD in seawater is 80mg/l and COD in seawater is 400mg/l.

The concentration of phenol and cyanide was much higher in the sediment samples as compared to the seawater whereas the load of phosphate, organic nitrogen and ammonia was higher in the samples collected from mangrove areas.

Out of six heavy metals tested, the concentration of lead was very high (5.49 mg/l), which might be an indication of fuel leaking from defective motor boats.

The national environmental quality standard for lead in wastewater is 0.5 mg/l. "The creek ecology once supporting livelihood of a large number of fishermen and contributing to economy has been destroyed by the continued discharge of untreated domestic and industrial waste. "This high level of pollution is also contaminating the quality of groundwater as well in the area," said Dr Aamir Alamgir, a researcher and teacher at the IES, while sharing his observations during the study.

Dr Alamgir has also done a study on the quality of area's groundwater and found it to be contaminated especially with high fluoride content. People living along the polluted creek, he said, were found to suffer from numerous ailments, especially those related to body growth and skin.

"People are also exposed to toxic fumes emanating from the industrial waste. We also saw very vulnerable water lines passing along gutter lines," he said, adding that pollution had also badly damaged mangroves. Fishermen now had to travel long distances to catch fish and the team hardly observed any important bird species in the area, he said.

(By Faiza Ilyas Dawn, 17, 30/07/2018)

## **Judicial commission summons garbage collection firms for violation of contract terms**

The Supreme Court-mandated commission on water and sanitation in Sindh on Monday summoned two contractors tasked with the disposal of garbage in South and East districts after the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board chief complained that they had violated the contract.

Head of the commission retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim put both the contractors on notice and directed them to turn up on Aug 1 with an explanation that why their contract should not be rescinded and/or penal clauses should not be invoked against them for defiance of the terms of the contracts.

SSWMB managing director Saeed Ahmed Mangnejo has brought to the notice of the commission some serious complaints against both contractors and contended that they were not complying with the terms and conditions under which the contract was awarded to them.

*Expresses serious concerns over supply of contaminated water to patients in hospital*

He further said that the contractors had withdrawn the manpower in violation of the terms of the contract.

There were some other serious allegations against the contractors and the commission directed the SSWMB MD to place the same before it in writing.

**KMC, DMCs barred from allowing temporary encroachments**

Expressing resentment against the Karachi Municipal Corporation (KMC) for giving permission to dump construction material and debris on roads and streets, the commission barred the KMC and district municipal corporations from granting permission for temporary encroachment on any public space as defined by the apex court in a case related to hoardings.

The Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), through a report, informed the commission that in compliance with its earlier orders, the construction material and debris had been removed from roads and streets.



However, the commission said, it was very surprising that permission for such purposes was given by the KMC prima facie on the strength of the powers conferred under the Karachi Building and Town Planning Regulations 2002. But these powers are not applicable to encourage builders to use any part of the city outside the plot to be used for dumping debris, it added.

"It is a permanent eyesore that the construction material even after completion of the buildings is lying outside the buildings and likewise debris remains lying on roads and streets indefinitely. Neither the KMC nor SBCA or DMCs ever showed concern over this and, to the contrary, the cleanliness process is hampered by them," it added.

It also directed the KMC, DMCs and SBCA that any debris or construction material would not be allowed on roads or in streets and be removed at the cost of the persons raising the construction.

#### **PSQCA chief summoned**

The commission expressed serious concerns over supply of contaminated water to patients and others at the Peoples Medical College Hospital in Shaheed Benazirabad and summoned the director general of the Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) on Aug 2 for explanation for allowing local companies to supply water without maintaining the standards required under the law.

The commission was informed that the samples of water, being supplied for drinking through two filter plants installed at the hospital, were collected and reports said that the water was microbiologically contaminated and was not fit for human consumption. Replying to a question, medical superintendent Dr Muzzafar Chandio said that 28 dispensers were placed in the wards and were refilled by a private local company.

However, Dr Ghulam Murtaza of the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources said that samples of water were collected from different wards and it transpired that even dispensers were providing unsafe water and prima facie the private company refilling the dispensers was not registered with the PSQCA.

The commission also ordered collection of fresh samples from dispensers and sought a report on Aug 2.

The commission also deplored that Rs260.5 million, meant to be spent on clean drinking water, had not been utilised and the MS failed to give any justifiable explanation.

The commission was of the tentative view that its orders dated March 22 and June 20 were violated and health and finance departments facilitated that violation.

The health secretary sought time to inquire into the matter and the commission granted one week and also made it clear that during the inquiries the new government would not displace him without its permission.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 17, 31/07/2018)

### **Chinese firm's performance in Karachi's waste disposal deemed unsatisfactory**

The Sindh Solid Waste Management Board has expressed disappointment over the operations of the private contractor responsible for disposal of solid waste in districts South and East of Karachi.



The board's managing director Saeed Ahmed Mangnejo pointed out an array of the company's failings at the hearing of the Supreme Court-mandated water commission in Karachi on Wednesday.

"The overall performance of the company is very disappointing," he said, adding that the contractor was yet to start door to door collection of solid waste. The service is limited to only union committees 29 and 30 in Saddar town.

The company is yet to employ sweepers in District East, while in South, the performance of manual and mechanical sweeping has remained poor, said Mangnejo. According to him, the contractor is bound to carry out collection of solid waste twice a day but the same is not being done.

"Repair and maintenance of vehicles and waste bins is not carried out ... containers and bins are not cleaned." He added that even the monitoring and complaint centres of the contractor were not functioning properly.

#### **Judicial commission comes down hard on Chinese companies**

He claimed that the contractor has failed to cover the garbage transporting vehicles and the company is understaffed at the managerial and supervisory levels. The control centres at Nishtar Road and Mehmoodabad remain defunct.

Changyi Kangjie Sanitation Engineering Company Ltd secured Rs2 billion per year contract for the disposal of waste in districts South and East. The commission expressed dismay that the company's general manager has evaded appearance before it for the third consecutive time.

"The commission is of the view that presence of the company's chairman is required because the staff deputed here [at] has failed to deliver," Justice (retd) Amir Hani Muslim, the commission's head, ordered.

(By Z Ali, The Express Tribune, 04, 02/08/2018)

### **‘SSWMB buried 32,000 tonnes of offal in Eid days’**

The Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) on Friday announced that it had buried offal weighing around 32,000 tonnes in trenches of designated landfills on the fringes of the city.

Reporting about the performance of the board over the past three days of Eidul Azha, a senior official said some 31,836 tonnes of offal of sacrificial animals were buried in the trenches of the designated landfills.

“The offal was buried in the trenches that had been dug especially for the purpose,” the SSWMB managing director said while briefing Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani.

Mr Ghani, officials in the ministry said, had supervised the entire process involving safe disposal of offal of hundreds of thousands of sacrificial animals scarified in the city over the past three days.

Officials said Mr Ghani visited all districts of the city.

He also met people in various places where they made complaints to him regarding the whole operation.

Meanwhile, the SSWMB report said a total of 18,879 tonnes of offal was buried in Jam Chakro landfill site, and another 10,311 tonnes were disposed of in Gond Pass site.

Besides, it said, 2,646 tonnes of offal was buried in the trenches dug in Sharafi Goth’s garbage transfer station.

The officials claimed they promptly responded to the complaints received at their designated centres.

“Our staff worked persistently from dawn till late night in the past three days,” said the report.

It said all collection points had duly been cleaned and sprinkled with limestone.

Four districts

The report said so far it had four districts in its jurisdiction while Korangi and Central districts were yet to come in its fold.

In the four districts of East, South, West and Malir, a total of 59 collection points were set up from where the offal was transported to the landfills through dumper trucks and loaders.

The board officials informed the minister that the entire operation was duly overseen.

“Our staff remained vigilant in all complaint centres and complaints were promptly sent to the staff concerned, which helped us ensure better relief to the people,” claimed a senior official.

The report said routine garbage lifting was not affected by the Eidul Azha operation.

(By The Newspaper’s Staff Reporter Dawn, 18, 25/08/2018)

### **Wasted waste**

WHILE the world is busy mastering its waste, we are letting it play havoc with our health and environment. Ineffective solid waste management is among the critical problems faced by Karachiites.

The absence of a proper waste collection and disposal mechanism has forced people to resort to measures that have detrimental impact. That is the collection and subsequent burning of garbage under flyovers and bridges. This practice has a bad effect on the surroundings and the civil structures’ lifespan.

The smoke has adverse effect on concrete. Moreover the water-waste quagmire has rendered the waste water streams of the Lyari river and Gujjar nullah ineffective during the rainy season. The condition of landfill sites is alarming as they are almost full to the brim.

Garbage, including hazardous medical waste is disposed without any sorting and segmentation, resulting in massive underground and atmospheric pollution.

A study, published in World Applied Sciences Journal in 2014, reported on the analytical results of tests conducted on underground water in the vicinity of Karachi’s landfill sites. The report’s findings showed that the content of metals such as cadmium, lead, nickel and chromium were beyond permissible limits for drinking water.

So what are the solutions?

Countries like Austria and Sweden have turned their trash into a treasure by converting it to energy to light up and heat homes. In Vienna, residual waste incineration contributes to half of the district heating energy of the city in summers and one third in winters. Even next door Dubai, has recently announced the launch of a waste to energy plant which will treat 5,000 tonnes of solid waste daily and generate 185MW electricity, powering 120,000 homes.

Karachi on the other hand, produces 16,000 tons of waste daily, 40 per cent of which remains uncollected. That makes it around 6400 tons of garbage accumulation on streets. Of the total waste produced in Karachi every day, 80 per cent is recyclable material, while the rest is organic waste.

It is time the federal and provincial governments, local government authorities and every individual played their role in making Pakistan a cleaner and safer place.  
(From the Newspaper Dawn, 09, 10/09/2018)

### **Chinese contractor told to comply with garbage-lifting accord**

The Supreme Court-mandated commission on water and sanitation in Sindh on Wednesday directed a Chinese contractor to comply with an agreement signed with the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) for collection of garbage in South and East districts within the time frame.

At the outset, the managing director of the SSWMB said that meetings with the Chinese sanitation firm were held for South and East districts in terms of directives issued by the commission and an agreement had been reached by both the parties.

The MD said as per agreement, door-to-door collection would be started immediately on the same pattern as district Malir. Procurement of additional machinery for both districts would be done and the operation of such machinery would start within 45 days.

Procurement of 15,000 more dustbins and their placement would be done in one month. Improvement in command and control system would be made within 20 days as well as in complaint management system. Manual sweeping of internal streets and machine sweeping of main roads would be carried out.

Repair of 20 per cent machinery given by the DMC East as done in DMC South and timely clearance/emptying the dustbins were also part of the agreement.

The commission headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Amir Hani Muslim put the contractor on notice to ensure that this arrangement, which was a concession extended to the contractor, will be complied with within the time frame given by the MD SSWMB.

The commission said that as far as the security issue raised by the counsel for the contractor with the MD SSWMB was concerned, the home secretary would take care of that as and when any complaint was received from the contractor.

### **Effluent treatment plants at sugar mills**

Meanwhile, the commission directed a lawyer for the Pakistan Sugar Mill Association to ensure that environment management plan (EMP) and initial environmental examination (IEE) reports for installation of effluent treatment plants at the sugar mills would be submitted in the first week of December.

Earlier on directive of the commission, an inspection of all sugar mills and distilleries across the province was carried out in order to suggest installation of treatment plants.

The lawyer submitted that installations of treatment plants involved two phases, first to hire consultants for EMP and IEE and submit same reports to the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) for approval and completion of other formalities.

The lawyer added that these plants would be operational before the crushing season 2019-20. The lawyer sought time for submission of EMP and IEE reports.

The commission asked him to consult with his clients and persuade them to submit report in the first week of December.  
(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 16, 04/10/2018)

### **This young man claims to have the solution to Karachi's garbage crisis**

Karachi — a conurbation of around 21.2 million people is in the midst of a 'garbage crisis' that continues to pollute and reeks the city, making it one of the world's least livable cities (134th in a list of 140 cities) according to a study carried out by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) earlier this year.



The crisis seems to have no end in sight, as each successive government promises to clean up the financial hub of the country but falls short of its commitment. But even as the governments and its agencies fail to deliver, citizens are literally picking up the "broom" to clean up the city.

### **energy generation: IMC to develop garbage recycle system**

'GarbageCAN' is one example of a social enterprise that is encouraging citizens to adopt different 'spots' across Karachi. So far, GarbageCAN has successfully adopted and cleaned up parts of Karachi University, the areas surrounding BBQ Tonight in Clifton,

Sindh Institute of Urology & Transplantation (SIUT) and Gharhi Khata near Light House, Saddar.

Ahmad Shabbar, a social entrepreneur and founder of 'GarbageCAN', said that the idea was not just to clean up neighbourhoods, but also raise awareness on the need to manage and recycle waste through sustainable practices.

### Humble origins

Shabbar first had the idea of doing something to resolve the city's garbage crisis back in November 2016 when he completed his studies in the US and returned to Pakistan. "When I came back after living in the US for four years, I only saw garbage everywhere but fortunately in those days there was a lot of talk of cleaning up the city, so I happened to come across the 'FixIt' movement and was instantly inspired to do something of my own," he said.



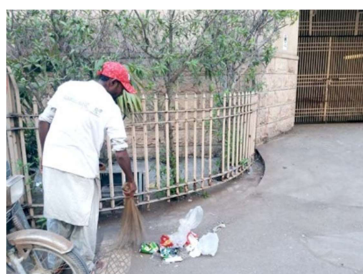
He initially observed how Afghan garbage scavengers worked in the city and after talking to sweepers on the streets, he discovered that the recycling business had a lot of potential. "I found that the recycling industry happens to be quite big in the city, so I wanted to create an initiative that not only focuses on recycling but also provides a comprehensive plan on waste management," he said. "This is how I started GarbageCAN — a sustainable waste management initiative. I use the word 'sustainable' because I want this initiative to be sustainable for our communities, the environment and for my employees."

As an early startup, Shabbar has crowd-funded \$5,000 through GoFundMe to generate enough funds to keep his venture in business. Besides, GarbageCAN also works with restaurants, schools and other business ventures such as Happy Palace Grammar School, Dawood Public School, BBQ Tonight and previously, even the University of Karachi, to collect both their recyclable and non-recyclable waste.

"GarbageCAN is working towards creating an app through which we can receive requests to collect recyclables that will be sold off to different recycling companies in the city," he told *The Express Tribune*. "For now, we receive recyclables from the public through our Facebook page or charge our clients a nominal monthly fee in exchange for a comprehensive waste management plan. We're also encouraging citizens to 'adopt' different localities for a small donation, which can be cleaned up by our staff," he added.

According to Shabbar, around 12,000 tonnes of waste is produced per day in the city — a figure postulated to rise to 16,000 tonnes by 2020. "Very few people know that only 9,500 tonnes of trash is picked up and around 2,500 tonnes is left on the streets," he said.

"Even the garbage that is being picked up is sent to landfill sites such as Jam Chakro and Ibrahim Hyderi, where it is burned to pollute the environment," said Shabbar. "A large chunk of the collected waste is directly dumped into our drainage systems and even into the sea, due to which our marine and coastal ecosystems are being polluted," he lamented.



### System's failings

Asked why the local government has been unable to resolve the garbage crisis in Karachi, Shabbar blamed it on two things — inefficiency and incompetence. "The government is inefficient in not focusing on recycling and other sustainable waste management practices and then there is political incompetence, due to which the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) and even political stakeholders are only busy in fighting over their jurisdictions."

### Waste disposal: Garbage dumps creating health hazards

According to Shabbar, inefficiencies are quite common in the informal industry of recycling. "We see 'Kachra Kundis' or public garbage installations all over the city, where garbage must be collected by the municipal authorities, but instead we see that the garbage is stored at such sites for days without any notice," he explained.

"Garbage scavengers usually take away only the valuables and leave the not so valuable garbage for the government to dump around. If only the same valuable garbage can be recycled by the government or a formal public-private entity, such private companies can be taxed and the government can benefit from it," he went to add.

"'Kachra Kundis' in Karachi are rented out storage places and most of the rent from such places directly goes into the pockets of influential people," Shabbar pointed out, adding, "the local government has really not learned from its failure to clean up the city".

Shabbar proposes that if only the city government installs more dustbins around the city and a general sense of civic responsibility is developed amongst citizens to not throw trash around, dump it in the oceans or burn it, "Karachi can be turned into one of the cleanest and greenest cities in Pakistan," he adds.

(By Muhammad Salman Khan The Express Tribune, 05, 19/10/2018)

## Sindh Solid Waste Management Board asked to improve its working

Sindh Chief Secretary Mumtaz Shah on Thursday stressed the need to strengthen the role of Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) across the province.

Presiding over a meeting at the Sindh Secretariat to review progress of the SSWMB and various development projects being run on the basis of public-private partnership, Mr Shah asked departments concerned to improve the pace of industrialisation in the province.



He also directed for development of parks and gardens to beautify the general environment with specific reference to the betterment of public health.

SSWMB managing director Saeed Mangnejo briefed the meeting that the board was functional in four of the city's districts: Karachi East, West, South and Malir. Plans to include the remaining Karachi Central and Korangi districts were in process, he said.

Mr Shah noted that the scope of SSWMB should be extended in all 29 districts of Sindh, and work be initiated to produce 50MW electricity from garbage.

He advised the relevant authorities to gear up monitoring and supervision of door-to-door garbage collection and from the reserved points till its final disposal in landfills.

He said deputy commissioners should evolve monitoring mechanisms in their respective limits to ascertain that the assigned work was carried out.

The chief secretary maintained that disciplinary action must be taken against the officials who showed lethargy.

He also directed for mandatory regular sweeping and washing of streets.

Mr Shah asked the officials to hold monthly meetings to review the performance of the board and devise future course of action. Officials said the meeting also reviewed public-private partnership projects, including Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas dual road, Malir Expressway, Jherruk-Mullah Katiar bridge, and security and safety of NICH (National Institute of Child Health).  
(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 16, 30/11/2018)