

NEWSCLIPPINGS

JANUARY TO JUNE 2018

SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE



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CM reviews water and sanitation schemes

Apparently worried by the deadline given by the apex court regarding the improvement of water and sanitation conditions in Sindh, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah held on Monday the fourth meeting on the issue in recent weeks.



As many as 16.57 million people in Sindh are provided drinking water through projects of the public health engineering department, which amounts to 53% population of the province, the meeting was told. The drainage schemes under the department covered 12.51 million people which amounted to 40% of Sindh's population.

The department was a key organisation in terms of provision of drinking water and drainage facilities in the province, the CM remarked.

Public Health Engineering Secretary Tamizuddin Khero said supply of drinking water in the existing schemes of the department was about 340 million gallons per day (MGD), of which supply of 122MGD was from underground sources while 218MGD was supplied from surface water sources.

There was a need of assessing the quantity of underground water in different areas and testing its quality to ascertain whether it could be supplied as drinking water, the CM said.

SEPA asks Qasimabad municipality to put an end to solid waste dumping
Urban areas of Karachi and Hyderabad in Sindh have dedicated organisations for their water supply and drainage, which do not fall in the domain of the public health engineering department.

Public Health Engineering Minister Fayaz Butt said there was a sweet water zone in the province where 184 water supply schemes, including 13 reverse osmosis plants, were functioning to provide water to urban areas. Urban areas in Ghotki district were being supplied drinking water through two schemes, Sukkur through four schemes, Khairpur through 22 schemes, Naushero Feroz through 11 schemes, Shaheed Benazirabad, Larkana and Shikarpur through seven schemes each, Jacobabad through four schemes, Kamber-Shahdadkot through nine schemes, Kashmore through three schemes and Dadu through eight schemes, the meeting was told.

The CM pointed out that the quality of underground water in the sweet zone was deteriorating. Measures should be taken to sustain and improve the quality of water in sweet zone, he said.

Sharing details of water supply schemes catering to rural areas, Khero said rural areas of Ghotki received water through 33 schemes, Sukkur through 58 schemes, Khairpur through 119 schemes, Naushero Feroz through 19 schemes, Shaheed Benazirabad through 61 schemes, Larkana through 21 schemes, Shikarpur through 28 schemes, Jacobabad through 68 schemes, Kamber-Shahdadkot through 119 schemes, Kashmore through 50 schemes, Dadu through 147 schemes, Badin through 204 schemes, Hyderabad through 93 schemes, Jamshoro through 219 schemes, Karachi through 137 schemes, Mirpurkhas through 165 schemes, Matiari through 79 schemes, Sujawal through 54 schemes, Sanghar through 199 schemes, Thatta through 170 schemes, Umerkot through 148 schemes, Tando Muhammad Khan through 75 schemes, Tando Allahyar through 97 schemes and Tharparkar through 786 schemes.

MoU inked Denmark, Water and Sanitation Agency in Faisalabad

Urban and rural drainage

The CM was told that in the urban areas of the province, six drainage schemes of 8.47MGD were functioning in Ghotki, six schemes of 13.03MGD in Sukkur, 22 schemes of 16.32MGD in Khairpur, 11 schemes of 7MGD in Naushero Feroz, 10 schemes of 10.3MGD in Shaheed Benazirabad, seven schemes of 16.35MGD in Larkana, seven schemes of 6.37MGD in Shikarpur, five schemes of

6.24MGD in Jacobabad, nine schemes of 6.5MGD in Kamber-Shahdadkot, seven schemes of 5.33MGD in Kashmore, eight schemes of 8.07MGD in Dadu, 12 schemes of 9.3MGD in Badin, two schemes of 0.3MGD in Hyderabad, six schemes of 3.02MGD in Jamshoro, six schemes of 10.24MGD in Mirpurkhas, seven schemes of 4.69MGD in Sujawal, 14 schemes of 12.58MGD in Sanghar, five schemes of 4.19MGD in Thatta, eight schemes of 4.14MGD in Umerkot, three schemes of 3.38MGD in Tando Muhammad Khan, six schemes of 4.63MGD in Tando Allahyar and six schemes of 1.62MGD in Tharparkar.

The meeting was also told about 948 drainage schemes for rural areas in the province that drained 91.33MGD of sewage generated by 4.79 million people.

According to the information shared by the department, 30 schemes drain 0.98MGD in rural areas of Badin, 28 schemes drain 1.19MGD in Hyderabad, 15 schemes drain 1.76MGD in Jamshoro, 41 schemes drain 9.44MGD in Karachi, 29 schemes drain 11.68MGD in Mirpurkhas, 42 schemes drain 28.59MGD in Matiari, seven schemes drain 0.23MGD in Sujawal, 43 schemes drain 1.73MGD in Sanghar, nine schemes drain 0.65MGD in Thatta, 15 schemes drain 1.2MGD in Tando Muhammad Khan, one scheme drains 0.02MGD in Tharparkar, 48 schemes drain 2.6MGD in Ghotki, 43 schemes drain 2.25MGD in Sukkur, 168 schemes drain 6.57MGD in Khairpur, 62 schemes drain 4.08MGD in Naushero Feroz, 76 schemes drain 3.59MGD in Shaheed Benazirabad, 86 schemes drain 3.82MGD in Larkana, 72 schemes drain 3.97MGD in Shikarpur, 22 schemes drain 0.85MGD in Jacobabad, 52 schemes drain 2.85MGD in Kamber-Shahdadkot, six schemes drain 0.34MGD in Kashmore and 39 schemes drain 2.22MGD in Dadu.

571 uplift schemes to be completed

Appreciating the work of the department, the CM said some of the schemes, however, needed to be rehabilitated. To this, Khero replied that the department had proposed the overhauling of 1,671 schemes.

The meeting was also attended by Chief Secretary Rizwan Memon, Planning and Development Board Chairperson Mohammad Waseem, Principal Secretary to CM Sohail Rajput and other officers. (The Express Tribune, 15, 02/01/2018)

Cabinet approves Rs400bn plan for resolution of potable water, sewerage issues

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Saturday informed the Sindh cabinet of a Rs400 billion ambitious plan to ensure provision of clean drinking water and safe environment to the people of Sindh in compliance with the directives of the Supreme Court.

Officials said a meeting of the Sindh cabinet was held here at the CM House to share the improvement of existing water and sanitation system and future endeavours planned by the government.

Mr Shah said he held six consecutive meetings with all departments concerned in which facts and figures were analysed and a report was prepared for submission in the apex court hearing a petition on provision of potable water in Sindh.

A 132-page report will be submitted before SC; three names for new IGP finalised

Mr Shah told the cabinet the 132-page report contained 381 annual development programme's schemes of water supply and sewerage system.

He said that the report was stuffed with district-wise reports in which all points had been identified from where municipal, hospital and industrial sewage was discharged to ultimate source of clean drinking water. Besides, it had summaries of hospital waste treatment and industrial effluent treatment in all districts, he added.

The CM said that the report also contained a summary of proper sewerage system along with treatment plants with proper source of discharge in all districts. The list of district-wise sewerage schemes for rural areas of Sindh had been included in the ADP, he said.

Mr Shah told the cabinet members that a component-wise physical and financial progress of the Greater Karachi Sewerage Plan S-III, details of five combined effluent treatment plants projects, details of Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, K-IV phase-I of 260 MGD and a district-wise report showing the plans with their cut-off date for ensuring uncontaminated water for every district according to its population were also part of the wide-ranging report.

The cabinet was told on the implementation entire ambitious plan would cost around Rs400 billion. The officials said that the cabinet discussed various points of the report and approved it for its submission before the apex court.

Three names finalised for new IGP

An additional item in the meeting vis-à-vis appointment of a new chief of the Sindh police was also taken up in the meeting.

The cabinet was informed that the federal government had again sought for a panel of three officers of grade B-22 having more than two-year service to retire to choose from for the post of inspector general of police (IGP).

The cabinet chose Sardar Abdul Majeed, Arif Nawaz and Maher Khalid Dad Lak for new IGP and asked the relevant authorities to send their names to the federal government forthwith.

Relocation of ATCs

Another item taken up in the meeting was shifting of the antiterrorism courts from Clifton to the Karachi central prison. There are 33 ATC courts notified by the government, of them 27 courts are functioning and six are lying vacant.

The cabinet was told that the ATCs working at Clifton, near Bagh Ibne Qasim, were required to be shifted to the central prison where a "state-of-the-art and most secure building" had been established with a cost of Rs240 million to house such courts.

The chief minister said that it became quite hard to transport terrorists from jail to ATCs in Clifton for hearing. "This is why the provincial government on the request of judiciary has established ATC courts at Central Prison."

CM Shah said the government would establish a grand library in the Clifton building after the relocation of ATCs. The cabinet also discussed the Sindh Industries Registration Act, 2017, which provided for registration and organised and planned growth of industries in the province.

(By Hasan Mansoor Dawn, 17, 07/01/2018)

Judicial commission inspects two sewage treatment plants

Justice (retd) Amir Hani Muslim, the newly-appointed head of the judicial commission on water and sanitation in Sindh, carried out on Saturday physical inspection of sewage treatment plants I and II, located in the SITE and Mehmoodabad areas respectively, to determine whether or not they had been made functional in light of the commission's recommendations as well as the directives of the Supreme Court (SC).



According to judicial sources, Justice (retd) Muslim, while visiting the treatment plant in SITE, conducted a detailed inspection of the building and machines. He came down hard on the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) officers accompanying him.

The commission head observed that apparently no work for the rehabilitation of the plant had been carried out. He also noticed poor state of cleanliness at the plant. Justice (retd) Muslim also checked

the attendance register and observed that a new register had been placed. He also found that the KWSB vehicles were in poor condition.

The commission head directed the KWSB authorities to submit a report by tomorrow (Monday) on the rehabilitation work carried out at the plant in question.

Earlier, Justice (retd) Muslim held proceedings of the judicial commission constituted by the SC to investigate the authorities' failure to provide potable drinking water, improve sanitation and curb its impact on the environment in Sindh.

SC orders inquiry into Mehmoodabad treatment plant's land allotment

At the onset, petitioner Shahab Usto informed the commission that out of 2,300 water supply schemes for the province, 953 were lying non-functional.

The petitioner disclosed that out of the non-functional schemes, the government selected 539 schemes and allocated funds worth Rs4.59 billion to make them functional. Of the funds, Rs7 million had been spent on the schemes, while Rs4 million was recently released, the petitioner said.

"However, up to 70% of the province still cannot access clean drinking water," the petitioner alleged. "Some schemes even had to be abandoned due to ineligibility of the officers and nepotism," he added.

Justice (retd) Muslim told the provincial chief secretary, provincial advocate-general (AG) and others that the apex court had appointed him not for monitoring the schemes but to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the commission as well as orders passed by the apex court.

He asked AG Barrister Zamir Ghumro to submit a report on the current position of the development schemes in the light of the commission's recommendations and the SC orders within two days. Stern action would be taken against those found delinquent, he warned.

Justice (retd) Amir Hani Muslim-led commission to start proceedings today

The commission inquired from the law officer whether or not the elements responsible for the corruption and delays in water and sanitation schemes had been identified. He also asked him to explain what long-term and short-term plans the government had made for the purpose.

Addressing the public health engineering secretary, Justice (retd) Muslim made it clear that he had powers either to refer the matters of contempt of court to the SC or refer them to the National Accountability Bureau for inquiry into corruption. He said the secretary could choose from either option.

The commission head told the officers that he was not interested in paperwork and asked them to show what had been achieved practically. He questioned who the elements responsible behind delays in launching 25 development schemes were, to which the secretary said the chief engineer was responsible. This irked Justice (retd) Muslim, who remarked that the secretary himself will be considered responsible for such delays in accordance with the rules.

The secretary informed the commission that 800 water supply schemes were non-functional in the province at the moment. During the hearing, the secretary and petitioner engaged in a heated debate. The commission expressed its displeasure over the secretary's conduct and asked the AG to ensure that government officers do not exhibit such behaviour in the future.

Justice (retd) Muslim told the secretary to either work or relinquish the post, adding that a report on the conduct of the officers could expose them to serious consequences in the apex court.

The commission head asked the chief secretary to submit a report, explaining in whose bank accounts the funds to be used for the repairing of treatment plants were transferred along with title of the accounts by tomorrow.

The chief secretary was also directed to submit a report, mentioning the short-term and long-term planning to address the water related problems in Karachi and rest of the province. The petitioner and Chief Secretary Muhammad Rizwan Memon undertook to submit consolidated plan reflecting the short-term plans to address the issues in these proceedings.

Education in Sindh suffers due to poor sanitation

Adjourning the proceedings till January 25, the commission ordered that only the chief secretary along with the secretaries of the relevant departments and the petitioner will be in attendance in the chamber.

“I, however, have put to notice that I will be visiting Karachi and rural Sindh in the intervening period to personally inspect the existing schemes,” Justice (retd) Muslim told the officers.

Meanwhile, the commission modified its order issued on January 1, 2017, allowing a plot measuring 135 acres in Shikarpur to be utilised for the purpose of a cattle colony. However, it also ordered the authorities to ensure the arrangement of land for the establishment of a landfill site in Shikarpur within three months and submit a compliance report to the commission.

(By Naeem Sahoutara, THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE , 04, 21/01/2018)

Not a single treatment plant is working in Sindh, says judicial commission

The Supreme Court-appointed judicial commission on water quality and drainage in Sindh on Thursday submitted report before the apex court, stating that not a single treatment plant is working in Sindh, all sedimentation-based water supply schemes are dysfunctional with faulty design and untreated sewage continues to flow in irrigation water/canals at 750 points.

It has recommended in detail that “for streamlining system [of construction of multistorey buildings and housing societies in Sindh] SBCA should be restrained from granting approval to any building, housing society whether commercial or residential before civic agencies concerned certify that applicants can facilitate and provide amenities to proposed structure/housing society.”

The apex court is likely to take up the report on Saturday. The judicial commission headed by retired justice Amir Hani Muslim has submitted its findings in the wake of commission’s visits across Sindh, meetings with officials and the commission’s proceedings in Karachi.

The commission has dwelt at length while making its point-wise observations for perusal of SC, detailing that six water cleaning mechanism exist in Sindh.

All settlement/sedimentation-based schemes were dysfunctional. Their basic design is faulty. It lacks provision of chlorination and coagulation/flocculation (alum dosing). With all impurities raw water is supplied to public for drinking purpose.

Filter plants of Karachi and Hyderabad were dysfunctional to varying degrees and none is producing water within acceptable parameters. Karachi’s distribution system is seedy and run down. The system makes sure that water, if filtered to some degree, reverts back to same, if not worse, status.

“Not a single sewerage treatment plant was working in province. Schemes are designed on conventional settlement/oxidation mechanism. Ironically not a single [one] of them was functioning. There is no sewerage treatment provision in whole province”, the report said.

It disclosed that “untreated sewerage continues to fall in irrigation water/canals at hundreds of places across Sindh (750 points)”.

Sepa is ‘disabled’

Sindh Environmental Protection Agency is a disabled and weak organisation barely able to make its presence felt. Hospitals lack medical waste disposal system as well as clean drinking water, hit by choked drainage system and wards surrounded by sewage/garbage.

Incinerators were neither installed nor rehabilitated despite Supreme Court's directives. Inaction of health department is not understandable as government released funds for procurement of 17 incinerators.

Some incinerators were manually operated and did not have optimum temperature to burn waste. Conditions prevailing in hospitals are alarming although government released funds consistently.

The commission noticed that 85 per cent of medicines' budget had been centralised and placed at disposal of health department; 15pc was allocated to medical superintendents of hospitals for local purchase. Procurement committee for medicines has been changed. Previous committees were headed by noted professors/vice chancellors who had expertise and integrity but Aug 2017 notification overlooks it.

The commission was told that additional secretary Mr Rehan Baloch, who is part of different committees for procurement of medical equipment and other development works fixes price. Present policy lacks transparency. Baloch runs the actual show and is facing inquiries from National Accountability Bureau for serious charges against him. "With current bureaucratic leadership lacking sense of responsibility and vigour, no satisfactory change [in health department] can be made" it said.

No master plans

Karachi and Hyderabad do not have master plans. Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) approved concept plan. "In fact no No Objection Certificate (NOC) is obtained by any person who intends to raise construction in Karachi and rest of Sindh as it is domain of SBCA", it said. SBCA has de-shaped Karachi and same is true for Hyderabad, Sukkur and Larkana. SBCA pockets billions under betterment charges from builders/housing societies but it is never spent on amenities. "Pilferage of money goes unchecked", it said. Civic agencies responsible for providing facilities are not consulted by SBCA.

"It is incumbent for streamlining system that SBCA should be restrained from granting approval to any building, housing society whether commercial or residential before civic agencies certify that applicants can facilitate and provide amenities to proposed structure/housing society. There is mushroom and unregulated growth of commercial/residential multistorey buildings/housing schemes in and outside Karachi sans water supply and drainage system.

The way forward

Discussing the way forward, it said, problem of clean drinking water is complex. Years of neglect have taken it to a primary stage wherefrom a new edifice needs to be raised. Inter and intra-departmental issues have impact of varying degrees on the net outcome.

Any slipshod or quick fix methods could bring cosmetic changes but actual problem would continue to haunt people. It necessitates an integrated holistic and economic solution of problem.

It said operation of RO plants is assigned to PHE which would execute/maintain RO plants. Supreme Court's decision to intervene in putting in place an officer in PHE who has vision and capacity to handle added responsibilities would certainly be a great help for commission. Working with secretary PHE (Asif Hyder Shah), commission has made considerable headway.

It said PHE revised preliminary strategic plan to run RO plants. National Testing Services (NTS) would be approached for recruitment of sub-engineers on posts lying vacant in PHE.

All officers/engineers facing corruption charges are reported back to department and they would no more be connected with execution of schemes. For appointment of assistant executive engineers, PHE secretary has approached Sindh Public Service Commission. Secretary PHE has taken decision for restructuring/expediting annual development (ADP) schemes for 2017-18 to channelise funds into schemes that could produce results sooner than originally conceived.

PHE is executing 223 schemes of water supply and drainage at a cost of Rs6 billion allocation in 2017-18. Under directives of commission, it submitted proposal for rehabilitation of non-functional water supply and drainage schemes at a cost of Rs5.181bn summary of which is approved by chief minister. It said another project cost-I "elimination of urban sewerage discharging in irrigation canals and lakes in Sindh" has been approved at a cost of Rs3.586bn to plug 181 points where untreated water enters freshwater resources.

Sindh government has committed funds of Rs1,050 million for water filter plants in Karachi, Gharo and Pipri. Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) has submitted a work plan for rehabilitation by June 2020 but commission has not approved it yet. Revised work plan of K-IV phase-1 project has been made with completion date of June 2019. Federal government agreed to release its share of Rs3.176bn as Sindh government has released its funds.

Treatment Plant-I at Haroonabad would be completed by year end whereas rehabilitation work on TP-III would be completed by June. Both plants would substantially mitigate Karachi's sewerage woes. On intervention of commission, federal government has approved construction of a new sewerage treatment plant namely TP-IV for Malir basin.

Water and Sanitation Agency Hyderabad has submitted work plans for water and sewerage treatment plants at a cost of Rs750m schemes of which are approved. Wasa agreed to initiate a scheme to rehabilitate distribution system. Chairman P&D promised to release Rs200m for current financial year. Chairman was directed to devise a mechanism to formulate master plans for all major cities.

Industrialists of Kotri have undertaken to operate and maintain Combined Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP). Secretary education has been directed to submit detailed work plan for supply of clean drinking water to 4,000 schools by June this year. The commission expressed the hope that issue of hydrants would be taken to its logical end.

(By Mohammad Hussain Khan Dawn 19, 17/03/2018)

Water commission reiterates need to de-silt Karachi's drains

The judicial commission appointed by the Supreme Court on water quality and drainage in Sindh on Tuesday visited various storm-water drains of Karachi. City Mayor Wasim Akhtar accompanied retired apex court judge Amir Hani Muslim, who heads the commission. Chairman of Task Force Jamal Mustafa Syed, secretary of local government Ramzan Awan and others were also part of the team.

The commission observed that there were encroachments on the drains which got narrower at various points in the city.

The commission visited around three to four drains in five hours. The authorities were directed that drains should be de-silted as they were filled with garbage, municipal and solid waste.

Around 33 drains are controlled by the KMC and around 300 by remaining district municipal corporations (DMCs).

The commission noted that different structures were raised over the drains and at some point they run underneath the roads.

The commission asked the authorities that their de-silting should not be delayed any more.

Committee re-notified

The commission re-notified the central procurement committee of Sindh health department with the observation that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) induct any of its additional directors as member of the committee.

The order was passed by consent.

The committee's terms of reference have been defined as preparing bidding documents, carrying out technical as well as financial evaluation of the bids, preparing evaluation report as provided in Rule 45, making recommendations for the award of contract to the competent authority, performing any other function ancillary and incidental to the above and monitoring of the procured medicines with regard to their quality and genuineness.

The commission had given serious observation about the committee which was dissolved earlier by the health department. It had also mentioned that previous committee was working properly as far as procurement of medicines was concerned by the health department.

The new committee is now headed by vice chancellor of the Dow University of Health Sciences Prof Dr Saeed Qureshi with representatives of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Jamshoro, Chandka Medical University Larkana, the Sindh health department and others as members. The chairman of NAB, order said, could induct any of its additional directors as member of the committee in order to ensure transparency in procurement process of medicines by the committee.

The secretary of health stated that the issue of technical committee may be taken up on March 22 separately.

The committee shall be authorised to have vigilance on distribution of the supply to different hospitals, including all health facilities and to generate compliance report on website for the public at large.

The commission also ordered that meeting of Jamshoro Thermal Power House board shall be convened within this month to address issues related to water logging.
(By Mohammad Hussain Khan Dawn 17, 21/03/2018)

Judicial commission seeks plan for cleaning of drains

The judicial commission on water and sanitation directed on Tuesday the local government secretary, Karachi mayor and heads of the building control and water and sewerage regulatory bodies to chalk out a plan for the cleaning of six major stormwater drains in the city and removal of encroachments from them.

Justice (ret'd) Amir Hani Muslim, who is heading the Supreme Court (SC)-appointed commission to investigate non-provision of clean drinking water and the poor state of sanitation in Sindh, passed this order after Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar informed the commission that work on widening of the road along Nehar-e-Khayam would start today (Wednesday) and be completed by April 4

He said that cleaning of the Glass Tower nullah had begun while the nullahs in Orangi, Manzoor Colony, Mehmoodabad and Chakora had obstructions and encroachments, which needed to be examined. He suggested that the local government secretary, task force chairperson, Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) director-general (DG) and Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) managing-director (MD) sit together to resolve the issue of encroachments on drains.

The commission directed the local government secretary to hold a meeting with the task force chairperson, SBCA DG and KWSB MD at his office on March 30 in this regard and submit it to the commission for further orders, if necessary.

Judicial commission seeks report from ACE on pending corruption inquiries

Justice (ret'd) Muslim observed that the SC, through its March 17 order, had sought a report from the commission in order to decide whether the responsibility of lifting of solid waste in the city should continue to lie with the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board, which has outsourced it to the contractors, or it should be given back to the local government, as it had been argued by Barrister Farogh Naseem, who represented the Karachi mayor before the SC.

Akhtar informed the court that his lawyer had professional commitments this week. He requested for time to assist the commission on this issue.

With the consent of the mayor, local government secretary and additional advocate-general, the hearing on this issue was deferred till Barrister Naseem was available.

Justice (ret'd) Muslim observed that in the light of the request made by Akhtar, it was not possible for the commission to submit the required report to the SC as the apex court had observed in its order that the commission would give some clear recommendations in this regard after hearing all the concerned.

The SBCA DG submitted a list of all housing schemes in Sindh to the commission. The commission was informed that many of such schemes were allowed without approval of the competent authority and without obtaining no-objection-certificates from different civic agencies.

Judicial commission wants water, sanitation schemes working plan today

With the consent of the parties, the commission ordered that in future the SBCA or the town planning department would approve only those housing schemes which produced the required certificates from civic agencies.

The commission was informed that the KWSB did not have maps and drawings of its projects and it needed to appoint a consultant. Justice (ret'd) Muslim observed that the water board had a technical adviser and a project director had also been appointed. He observed that nothing had been achieved with their assistance.

The commission was also informed that a summary had been forwarded for the installation of flow meters at inlets and outlets of the pumping stations. The local government secretary said the summary would be expedited and approval would be made hopefully in 10 to 12 days. After that, the scheme would have to be approved by the planning department, he added.

The project director of the S-III scheme informed the commission that the contractor had undertaken to expedite the work at the Treatment Plant-III and Treatment Plant-I and he would report back in a week.

The commission directed the S-III and K-IV project directors to submit a certificate fortnightly regarding the progress of work.

The health secretary filed a report stating that a technical committee had been notified for the procurement of medicines for government hospitals. The commission fixed the matter for the next week when a report would be submitted by the Monitoring and Evaluation Cell of the planning and development department about feasibility of the rehabilitation project of the district and taluka headquarter hospitals in Sindh.

A report was submitted by the Cantonment Board Clifton (CBC) chief executive officer regarding the collection of solid waste and its disposal at a landfill site. The commission observed that improvements had been made by the CBC. The commission remarked that it expected that other cantonment boards would also ensure that their solid municipal waste was properly collected and disposed of at the designated landfill sites.

The commission also directed the West SSP to appear in person next week during the hearing on a complaint regarding water hydrants.

(By Our Correspondent The Express Tribune, 04, 28/03/2018)

SBCA, utilities' chiefs summoned to devise plan for cleaning of storm-water drains

The Supreme Court-appointed judicial commission on water quality in Sindh on Saturday directed the heads of the Sindh Building Control Authority, K-Electric and other civic utilities to appear before the commission to resolve the issue of cleaning of storm-water drains in the city.

During the proceedings, Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar told the commission that a consultant was required to be hired for making a drainage master plan for cleaning the storm-water drains and restoring their required sections.

The commission head, retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, remarked that the drains were encroached upon and obstructed due to substantial changes in land use over a period of many years.

He remarked that there were pipelines within the sections of drains and unless these lines were removed, the cleaning of storm-water drains was not possible.

"Let this issue be debated on April 10, when the chief secretary and chairman P&D shall also be in attendance," he ordered.

Judicial commission orders immediate removal of debris from city's roads, footpaths

The commission issued notices to the heads of the SBCA, K-Electric, Sui Southern Gas Company, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited and Karachi Water and Sewerage Board to resolve the issue of storm-water drains.

The commission also took exception to the appointment of Hussain Ahmed Mastoi, a grade-18 officer, as director general of the rural development department on a grade-19 post.

When asked by the commission, Mr Mastoi conceded that he was the senior-most officer in grade-18 to be appointed on the own pay scale (OPS) basis.

The additional advocate general assured the commission that he would approach the competent authority for posting him out from the office of RDD DG and getting posted any officer of repute who qualified as per the recruitment rules of the post.

The city mayor stated that there were 106 roads which were to be maintained by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation and the footpaths and rest of the roads were the responsibility of the district municipal corporations concerned.

The commission remarked that roads and pavements in the city were littered and encroached by debris and construction material.

"What is practiced is that the different agencies execute work by excavating the roads and footpaths, the excavated material is never removed, nor is the required repair or rehabilitation done on such roads and footpaths after the work is completed," Justice Muslim deplored.

He referred to the apex court's direction to clean the city and remarked that no visible improvement could be made unless the debris and construction material was removed or properly placed.

"Therefore, from now onwards, if it is noticed that construction material of any ongoing work is lying on footpaths/roads, DG SBCA shall be responsible and answerable," Justice Muslim warned.

He also directed the water, power and gas utilities, government departments and private concerns to ensure that the construction material or debris was removed from the roads and footpaths immediately.

Expressing annoyance over provincial government's inaction in removing Malir's deputy commissioner, the commission once again directed for removal of Muhammad Ali Shah from the office of the DC, Malir "by appointing any other officer of repute in his place today, failing which the commission will pass appropriate order".

(By The Newspaper's Staff Reporter Dawn, 17, 08/04/2018)

Civic utilities directed to coordinate with mayor on cleaning drains

The Supreme Court-mandated judicial commission on quality of water and better sanitation facilities in the province on Tuesday directed the heads of the Sindh Building Control Authority, K-Electric and other civic utilities to coordinate with the Karachi mayor to resolve the issue of cleaning of storm-water drains in the city.

The commission head, retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, will take up the issue of cleaning of drains on April 16 in his chamber.

On Tuesday, Mayor Wasim Akhtar, managing director of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board, and representatives of Sui Southern Gas Company, K-Electric and other civic agencies appeared before the commission on its earlier order.

The representatives of the civic utilities informed the commission that they would coordinate with the mayor who identified the places of storm-water drains where wiring and pipes were to be removed.

The chief secretary submitted the provincial government needed some time to revisit the issue of executing the schemes on two drains — Gujjar nullah and Mehmoodabad nullah.

He said the provincial government would decide if these schemes needed to be handed back to Karachi Metropolitan Corporation for execution as presently Karachi Development Authority was assigned the execution of work.

During the previous hearing, Justice Muslim had remarked that the drains were encroached upon and obstructed due to substantial changes in land use over a period of many years.

Out-of-turn promotions

The Sindh High Court on Tuesday directed the director general of the Federal Investigation Agency to appear in court in a petition pertaining to out-of-turn promotions and induction of officers of other departments in the agency on deputation.

A two-judge bench also directed the FIA chief to submit comments on the matter and put off the hearing to a date to be later pronounced by the court's office.

The petition was filed by an FIA officer, Malik Altaf, who submitted that as many as 50 officers were awarded out-of-turn promotions in the agency in violation of the apex court's order.

He said that senior officers of the FIA were being ignored in the process of promotion and the blue-eyed officers were being promoted.

Besides, he said that blue-eyed persons of other departments were also working on deputation in the FIA. The petitioner prayed to the court to declare out-of-turn promotions null and void and also order repatriation of officers working on deputation to their parent departments.

The bench also expressed its displeasure when it learnt that FIA director general did not appear before it despite its directives.

The bench directed the FIA director general to appear before it to inform what steps were taken in this regard.

Bail rejected

The Sindh High Court on Monday rejected the bail application of a worker of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement in a murder case.

A division bench heard the bail plea of Ahsan Iqbal who prayed to the court to order his release on bail as he had nothing to do with the charges levelled against him.

According to the prosecution, the accused was a member of target killers' team and had shot a person in 2012 on the insistence of Hammad Siddiqui and Raees Mamma who were also nominated in the case.

The prosecutor maintained that the case was currently being tried in an antiterrorism court and requested the court to turn down the bail application.

After hearing the arguments from both sides, the bench rejected the bail application and directed the trial court to decide the case on merit within three months.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 18, 11/04/2018)

SC wants city drains, sewers cleaned before monsoon

The Supreme Court on Saturday directed the authorities to clean sewers and storm-water drains across the city before the first spell of monsoon and submit a compliance report.

Headed by Justice Faisal Arab, a two-judge bench was hearing a petition on supply of potable water and provision of proper sanitation facilities across the province at the Karachi Registry of the apex court.

At the outset of the hearing, an additional advocate general of Sindh informed the judges that steps, including cleaning of sewers and storm-water drains, had been initiated on the directive of the apex court-mandated water commission.

"It's shameful that work has just started", Justice Arab said, adding that the authorities should have started work on their own.

The judges also remarked that the monsoon season was upon us and asked when the authorities would complete the work.

Justice Arab said that clean water was a basic necessity of life and the people should be provided with it.

Petitioner Advocate Shahab Usto informed the judges that there were 30 big and 500 small drains in the city and four big drains at Korangi, Chakra Goth, Mehmoodabad and Manzoor Colony were being cleaned.

Four of the 30 big and 500 small drains are being cleaned, court told

He submitted that the provincial government was allocating Rs500 million for cleaning drains across the city.

The bench directed the authorities to complete the task of cleaning of drains, and put off the hearing to May 5.

Bank merger case

Meanwhile, the two-judge bench of the apex court extended its restraining order on the merger of Sindh Bank and Summit Bank till further orders and put off the hearing to May 5.

Justice Arab remarked that the Chief Justice of Pakistan, who had taken suo motu action against the merger, would decide the case himself.

Governor of State Bank of Pakistan Jamil Ahmed appeared before the bench on a court notice and informed the judges that the SBP had no objection to the merger of the two banks. He submitted that the SBP was monitoring the proposed merger of the banks in accordance with the rules.

Justice Arab remarked that Summit Bank had incurred losses and asked if its merger would not have any adverse effects on Sindh Bank.

On court's query, the director of Sindh Bank informed the judges that the employees of Summit Bank would be paid salaries by Sindh Bank for one year and after that they could seek a new contract or job.

He said that the merger would not have any negative effects on Sindh Bank as the bank branches and foreign exchange would increase in the wake of merger.

The representative of Summit Bank informed the judges that the proceedings of merger of the two banks were still at an initial stage.

The court directed the respondents to file a report regarding the proceeding of merger of the banks, and put off the matter to May 5.

The proposed merger of Sindh Bank with Summit Bank faced a setback after Supreme Court's suo motu intervention over alleged irregularities.

A note from the Supreme Court registrar office — which forms the basis for suo motu notice — stated that Summit Bank was formed via the amalgamation of Atlas Bank, Arif Habib Bank and MyBank and according to regulations of the central bank, it was compulsory for all banks to have a paid-up capital of Rs10 billion.

The note also said: "Summit Bank has failed to comply with such requirement for years and, on the contrary, the capital has been raised fraudulently by misusing depositors' money against shell companies and fake grower loans through sugar mills and power project in Nooriabad, Sindh."

The registrar note also highlighted that Sindh Bank was a government-owned entity and its merger or takeover of a loss-incurring entity would cause a loss to the national exchequer.
(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 17, 15/04/2018)

Clean sweep!

"If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well'.



No work is insignificant. All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."
– Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

There he is amid a tornado of dust of his own making. His hair has turned light brown as dust settled on his head, his clothes are dirty as are his hands and feet.

When asked why can't he, being in the line of cleaning, be clean himself, he blinks before looking down at his dirty hands and feet. "Baji, that can't be," he says. "Either I clean your roads, or I clean myself. If I clean myself, I would not want to touch anything dirty or dusty and you will find a clean sweeper here but very dirty roads," he reasons as he gets back to his work.



The storm of dust from his jharoo, or besom, makes you cover your nose and mouth as you turn away. Meanwhile, there he is gathering trash on one side of the footpath without any protection or dust mask.

There are more sweepers seen cleaning the streets and roads in the morning than in the afternoon. But their duty hours are from 6am to 4pm. "It gets very hot in the afternoon so we may not be so active later, having done most of our work earlier. During the afternoon many of us responsible for cleaning an area would meet up in a corner with a little shade, on the footpath or under a tree for a breather where we can relax and maybe talk or discuss one another's problems while searching for their solutions or simply just to eat lunch or have tea," says Nazeer Ahmed, resting under a bougainvillea shade with his young colleagues Adnan and Naveed.

The boys seem very young, somewhere in their early to middle teens. "They are both about 15 years of age," says Nazeer.

But is that not too young to be working? "Not at all," says Adnan, one of the boys, while enjoying his potato crisps. "We are inducted into the workforce at 14 or 15 years of age. We are all contractual employees, providing cheap labour," he adds.



And how much salary is he paid? "Rs10,000 a month," he announces with pride. But when asked further if this was just the starting salary and he would be paid more when he climbs up in rank, the boy shakes his head. "No, I am told that this is it! What we are getting now, we can expect to get even after several years. We hardly get any raise," he says.

"Still, we are free to work privately after getting off duty. Then we can make a few more rupees. Sometimes, we are paid Rs100 or 200 by a shop or house owner to clean their entrance or gate slope."



Asked if the chips he was eating was his lunch, he smiles and shakes his head again. "My mother has packed me lunch. We will gather somewhere later and open all our lunches to make a feast of it," the boy says.

And do they carry enough water to quench their thirst in the hot weather? "We have old disposable bottles which become empty too soon. Then we go about knocking at doors, requesting any of the houses here for water. Sometimes they give us a hose to refill our bottles, sometimes they tell us to get lost. If they bring us water from the fridge, they insist on pouring it themselves as they don't want us to touch their bottles," he says.

Meanwhile, there is Qaiser sweeping away off Tariq Road with two besoms making more of a mess than what he had started with. "Two are always better than one, Baji," he says on being asked what did he think he was doing. "I'm lifting the dirt and trash with one jharoo and collecting it on one side with the other."



It is believed by many of the older sweepers here that the British masters of imperial India had specially invented the besom to make the menial workers bend a little when going about their work as if they were in a constant state of bowing. "For themselves they had the broom. But for us they had the jharoo," says Basheer, an elderly sweeper. "And we got used to the jharoo for cleaning, so much that we don't think that we can make much use of a broom now," he says, while showing how easily the twigs of his besom can reach difficult areas and tight spots.

"But we found a way around the problem long ago," says the young Adnan, "by adding a stick to the jharoo. Now we don't have to bend or bow for anybody while we work."

(By Shazia Hasan Dawn, 20, 22/04/2018)

Cleaning of drains and sewers unlikely to begin before mid-July

Cleaning of storm-water drains and sewers in the metropolis before the upcoming monsoon in June seems improbable as the proposed work is unlikely to begin before mid-July owing to technical and legal snags.



While confiding this to Dawn on Saturday, informed sources said the work on cleaning of drains might not be kicked off before the middle of July if the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation went by the legal formalities for the execution of the task.

They said the KMC did not have the requisite gear and machinery for de-silting the drains and the work would be outsourced by inviting bids from private contractors.

We are ready to start work, but can't move ahead without funds, says mayor

KMC's senior director for co-ordination Masood Alam said the process of inviting tenders was likely to be initiated on April 24. "But the process will be initiated only after we get funds." The sources, however, said that the provincial government was still dragging its feet on releasing Rs500 million to the KMC despite the fact that the chief secretary had assured on April 17 the Supreme Court-mandated judicial commission on water and sanitation that the funds would be released within two days.

Mayor Wasim Akhtar told Dawn that he had learnt that the chief minister had approved the summary, but funds had not been released till today.

"We are ready to start work on the cleaning of drains, but can't move ahead without funds", he said.

The KMC has identified 26 storm-water drains as in very poor condition, needing de-silting before the wet weather. These drains included Frere Nullah (Clifton Nullah), Manzoor Colony Nullah, Mehmoodabad Nullah, Korangi Nullah, Nehr-i-Khayyam, Hub River Road Nullah and Shershah Nullah.

Sources said the KMC had worked out a procurement mechanism for cleaning and de-silting storm drains and requested the provincial government in February to allocate funds for the purpose.

They said the provincial authorities had been informed that no work on the cleaning of drains had been carried out since December 2013 and most of the storm-water drains were in a poor condition.

The sources said the KMC had asked for Rs500m each for cleaning of drains and repair of machinery. However, the provincial government approved only Rs500m for cleaning of drains, they said.

KMC insiders said that there were about 200 articles of heavy gear and machinery such as trucks, dumpers, loaders in the corporation which it had used in 2009 and 2010. They said only 40 vehicles were in running condition, while the rest of them were ruined and rusted.

The KMC's senior director said that there were over 500 small and big drains in the city and 30 of them discharged water directly into the sea.

"But, unfortunately, over time these drains have been heavily encroached upon, leaving no space for de-silting machinery to operate," he said.

He added the KMC had already started its work and engineers of the respective storm-water drains had been asked to assess the quantum of work and make bill of quantities within three days. "The tenders will be invited through the press as and when we get funds from the provincial authorities," he said.

However, the sources said that there was a lengthy and cumbersome procedure of formalities for procurement under the Sindh Public Procurement Regulatory Authority and if the KMC went by the rules, it would be able to issue work orders to contractors not before mid-July.

They said the deadline for cleaning the storm-water drains could be met only if the process was initiated on an emergent basis without going through the procedure.
(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 17, 22/04/2018)

Judicial commission slams DHA for release of raw sewage into sea

The Supreme Court-mandated commission on water and sanitation on Tuesday came down hard on officials of the Defence Housing Authority over disposal of untreated sewage into the sea and directed them to submit to it the original plan of the DHA and details of the operational and planned sewage treatment plants.

The commission, headed by former SC judge Justice Amir Hani Muslim, said that during his recent visit he saw four points around Seaview beach where untreated sewage was allowed to fall into the sea, polluting the beach.

The commission inquired about the town planning and treatment plants when an additional director of engineering projects and an adviser on the DHA projects appeared before it.

Censures KWSB MD for failing to comply with its orders

They replied that one treatment plant was functioning and four others were being planned. However, Justice Muslim confronted them regarding the active plant and they conceded that originally there was a functional treatment plant, which was abandoned after it was handed over to the Cantonment Board Clifton (CBC).

Justice Muslim asked under what law the untreated sewage was being released into the sea.

At one stage, the commission said the defence secretary could be summoned over pollution on the beach and directed an official of the Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources to collect samples from all the four points for an analysis after the DHA officials insisted that it was not sewage but storm-drain water.

The commission directed the officials to produce the original plan of the DHA with details about the areas where treatment plants were planned to be installed by May 15.

The commission said the DHA and CBC officials sought a week to undertake the exercise and resolve these issues, adding that if the same was not settled, the matter would be taken up on May 15 for further orders.

KWSB told to implement orders within a week

Justice Muslim directed the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) managing director to enforce all the directives of the commission within a week and asked Asif Haider Shah, a member of the task force, to take out all orders from the record and communicate them to the KWSB chief. In case of non-compliance, he will fix the responsibility and submit a report on May 15.

Advocate Shahab Usto, who petitioned the apex court on water and sanitation issues in Sindh, told the commission that the KWSB had repeatedly been overlooking its orders.

The commission also observed that the KWSB MD failed to comply with its orders and directed him to turn up on May 14 with a plausible explanation, or face prosecution.

Cleaning of storm-water drains

The commission directed the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) to immediately start cleaning storm-water drains after the formalities were completed.

The KMC officials said they had hired technical experts to make the cleaning drive effective.

It observed that the footpaths and roads around Empress Market were also encroached upon by pushcarts and directed the KMC to remove the encroachments with the help of police and other law enforcement agencies within a week. The deputy commissioner (South) and the SSP concerned would be responsible for preventing encroachments from reappearing on these roads and footpaths, it added.

Plea about K-IV

The commission issued notices to the attorney general and additional advocate general on an application against alleged realignment in the K-IV project till May 14.

Barrister Salahuddin Ahmed, representing a resident of Usman Allah Rakhio Goth in Gadap Town, submitted that the alignment of the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, better known as K-IV, approved in 2016 was the only straight and shortest possible and time/money saving route.

However, he contended that realignment of the project was based on mala fide intention to achieve ulterior motives and to benefit Bahria Town. He requested the commission to set aside the realignment of K-IV.

Conversion of parking lots

The commission expressed displeasure over utilisation of parking lots of buildings for commercial and residential purposes and parking vehicles outside the buildings.

It ordered the director general of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) and the cantonment boards to ensure in their jurisdictions that parking lots must not be used for purposes other than parking.

Directions for police

Chairman of the task force Jamal Mustafa Syed, who is also the secretary for irrigation, told the commission that the content of a complaint regarding a shortage of water in a village was correct as at least there were seven major irregularities in the project. The commission directed the irrigation department to get an FIR registered and asked the police to take cognizance of these offences.

The chairman of the task force also complained that neither police extended any support in Moro when an officer of the irrigation department was injured during an operation nor they arrested the culprits.

The commission directed the provincial police officer to issue stern directives to the SSPs concerned, who received complaints from the irrigation department, to extend full support to the officials of the irrigation department. In case of non-compliance, action would be recommended against the police officers concerned, it added.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 17, 09/05/2018)

Judicial commission asks defence secretary to justify release of raw sewage into sea

The Supreme Court-mandated commission on water and sanitation took exception to the absence of Defence Housing Authority officials on Tuesday and summoned the defence secretary on May 21 over disposal of untreated sewage into the sea.

The head of the commission, retired SC Justice Amir Hani Muslim, deplored that despite clear directives at a previous hearing, the DHA officials did not turn up and the Cantonment Board Clifton (CBC) was shifting responsibility onto the DHA.

On May 8, Justice Muslim had directed the DHA officials to file the original plan of DHA and details of the operational and planned sewage treatment plants after he noticed four points around Seaview beach where untreated sewage was allowed to fall into the sea, polluting the beach. He had also asked an official of the Pakistan Council for Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) to collect samples from all the four points for an analysis after the DHA officials insisted that it was not sewage but storm-drain water.

'Restaurants at Seaview and Do Darya have no mechanism for lifting solid or liquid waste'

At the outset of the hearing on Tuesday, nobody turned up from the DHA except its lawyer, who remained unable to respond to any question asked by the commission, and submitted an evasive report, the commission said.

Dr Ghulam Murtaza of the PCRWR submitted his report, which was alarming and had direct bearing on lives of people visiting the beach as the DHA and the CBC were draining contaminated (sewerage) water directly into the sea.

Additional attorney general Salman Talibuddin informed the commission that the DHA and the CBC had been taking contradictory stands, adding that the DHA was the developing agency and it was the responsibility of the DHA to develop land catering to all civic needs. It is also bound to plan sectors in a manner which helped residents get clean water and proper sewerage facilities, inclusive of treatment plants.

On the other hand, the CBC contended that once a sector was developed they took over the sector, operated it and managed their municipal responsibilities by collecting the conservancy charge and other related issues.

The commission said it appeared that the DHA had avoided submitting the details though the issue was related to human lives and under Article 9 of the Constitution it was the fundamental right of every citizen to enjoy life.

All the federal and provincial authorities and civic agencies of the country were constitutionally bound to help the citizens enjoy their lives by providing clean potable water with proper hygienic atmosphere.

However, Justice Muslim observed that the DHA and the CBC on the contrary had made the lives of picnickers visiting Seaview miserable by draining untreated liquid into the sea through different drains.

He further said that the restaurants leased out and constructed at Seaview and Do Darya had no mechanism for lifting solid or liquid waste, which was also drained directly into the sea from recreational spots as the report of samples collected by Dr Murtaza showed contamination.

In these circumstances, where the DHA officials have not come forward and the CBC was shifting responsibility onto the DHA, the commission said it was constrained to issue notice to the defence secretary to appear in person and justify that how the DHA and the CBC, which were under the administrative control of the ministry of defence, could play with the lives of citizens under their laws in defiance of the Constitution.

While asking the defence secretary to turn up on May 21, the commission also directed him to explain which law permitted these civic agencies to drain untreated sewage directly into the sea which was injurious to health and hazardous to marine life.

Justice Muslim again directed Dr Murtaza to revisit the different areas of Seaview with a senior officer of the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency and collect samples from all points where sewage was being drained into the sea.

He said the commission was constituted under the order of the Supreme Court with the objective to ensure that clean water was provided to the public, while proper drainage system and lifting of municipal solid waste and medical waste were provided for.

The commission warned: "If the secretary defence fails to appear, the commission will file reference to the honourable Supreme Court for taking appropriate action against those who have defeated the directives of the commission".

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 17, 16/05/2018)

Seas of sewage

IT'S a common problem faced by every household that is not fortunate enough to have access to what might be called 'civic services'. It's a problem if it doesn't go away. The waste needs to go away, somewhere and somehow.



Most of our cities have sewage systems of some sort, whether the pipelines are old and broken, or going nowhere. There is a method in the madness to whatever extent. A large part of Karachi, however, finds itself in a novel situation altogether, with an apparently readymade drain right around the corner, obviating the need for land developers to make proper arrangements (arrangements that might somewhat justify the astronomical prices of land there).

On Tuesday, a Supreme Court-mandated judicial commission on water and sanitation issues took further exception to the alleged release of raw sewage into the sea from the Defence Housing Authority area. The head of the commission, retired Supreme Court judge Amir Hani Muslim, wasn't happy with the fact that despite clear directives at previous hearings, DHA officials failed to turn up, while the Cantonment Board Clifton appeared to be shifting responsibility for the unchecked pollution — or poisoning — on to the DHA.

On May 8, Justice Muslim had directed the DHA to file the original plans of the multi-billion-rupee housing scheme with the commission, as well as the details of the operational and planned sewage treatment plants. Reportedly, he had noticed four points around Seaview beach where untreated sewage was being let into the sea. Subsequently, after DHA officials insisted that the liquid was from storm-water drains and not sewage, he had asked the Pakistan Council for Research on Water Resources to collect samples for analysis, which concluded that the housing authority and CBC were draining contaminated water directly into the sea.

The waters of our planet are increasingly being rendered poisonous.

If these findings are detestable, one has only to visit the beaches off Karachi — from Seaview to Hawkesbay to Sandspit, to French Point — to find evidence of the unchecked poisoning of the ocean. Of course, Pakistan is not alone in this — sea pollution is a growing worldwide problem — but Karachi is not adding at all to its laurels by failing in its civic responsibilities. It is hardly inconceivable in this country where the rule of law is largely absent that an entire housing area may have been planned without reference to basic services. And yet, such seems to be the reality.

It is far from the case that DHA may be the only polluter. From West Wharf to Mauripur, there are thousands of small industrial units that are allowed to let untreated waste flow straight into the sea — for the want of a civic structure and the utter lack of regulation. A couple of years ago, the Sindh administration acceded that some 8,000 tons of solid waste are either dumped or end up in the Karachi harbour every single day. In addition, some 350 gallons of raw sewage or untreated industrial waste flow into the sea every day (and this is without the estimated involvement of high-profile residential areas).

Sea pollution is a terrible thing; worldwide, the problem is so rampant that by some knowledgeable estimates, in another three decades or so, the oceans will contain more plastic than marine life. A distinction is made between polluted water and solid waste, but the end-result contributes to the identical problem of the waters of this blue-green Earth increasingly being rendered poisonous.

Yet, the problem encompasses far more than that, and has an even more direct bearing on the lives of the citizenry. It has been four years since, after Eid celebrations, it was found that upwards of 30 people had drowned off Seaview beach — the city's most accessible shoreline spot — alone. The monsoon tides are dangerous, certainly, but even by that standard the number of these deaths was big. The authorities' answer was to shut the beach off to public use, ban the access of people to an area where their safety could not be guaranteed.

However, the central potential problem was avoided: the possible effects on the currents of gallons upon gallons of additional water (sewage) flowing into the sea, as well as the effect of high-rise buildings along

the shore (the foundations of which must architecturally be commensurate with the height of the building). One can only hope that somebody in the city administration's planning circles is thinking about such regulation, but that certainly does not appear to be the case.

The city of Karachi — much like the rest of the country — appears to wilfully be poisoning itself and cutting off its own support lines for the future. Where the metropolis is killing off one of its major characteristics, Lahore's generations are growing up on vegetables sown on land contaminated by untreated industrial effluent in the Kasur region. Where matters will end is increasingly clear.
(By Hajrah Mumtaz Dawn, 09, 21/05/2018)

Defence secretary given a week to file undertaking on DHA sewage treatment plant in Karachi

Expressing displeasure over the absence of the defence secretary, the Supreme Court-mandated commission on water and sanitation on Monday directed him to file an undertaking within a week for the installation of a sewage treatment plant in Defence Housing Authority.

The head of the commission, retired SC Justice Amir Hani Muslim, also asked the defence secretary to ensure that all sewage lines of DHA Phase VIII were connected with a treatment plant within four months.

On May 15, the commission had summoned the defence secretary over the release of untreated sewage into the sea from four points around Seaview beach after DHA officials did not turn up to file the original plan, as was demanded by the SC. The Cantonment Board Clifton (CBC) was shifting responsibility onto the DHA.

At the outset, the defence joint secretary, Farooq Hassan, turned up and informed the commission that the defence secretary was out of country on an official tour and was "likely to come back either tonight or tomorrow".

Justice Muslim expressed extreme displeasure over the absence of the defence secretary and said that if the secretary was not available in the country, the additional secretary must come.

'DHA desalination plant will be made functional within a year'

He warned that the commission may file a reference in the Supreme Court for taking appropriate action against the defence secretary.

Additional attorney general Salman Talibuddin conceded that the beach was being polluted and sought time to address the issue.

After hearing the officials, the commission said it was jointly proposed that the defence secretary would furnish an undertaking to the commission for DHA Phase I to VII, which was under the CBC control, assuring it of installation of a sewage treatment plant to cater to the sewerage from these phases.

Similarly, the defence secretary will also incorporate in the proposed undertaking that all sewerage pipes/lines of Phase VIII must be connected with the treatment plant installed near Creek Vista adjacent to Golf Club within four months, it added.

The commission ruled that the proposed undertaking would bind the relevant officials of the CBC and the DHA.

The CBC chief executive officer contented that the advertisement for commissioning of the sewage treatment plants inviting tenders would be published within a couple of days after completion of the formalities.

The CBC will contract out the work to the successful bidder and the treatment plant will be made functional by December this year, he added.

The additional attorney general assured the commission that the proposed undertaking of the defence secretary would be submitted by May 28.

Justice Muslim said that besides the four points, the restaurants leased out and constructed on Seaview and Do Darya had no mechanism for lifting solid or liquid waste, which was also drained directly into the sea.

He deplored that all the storm-water drains of the city had been converted into sewage drains. The commission also heard officials of the DHA and the CBC on the issue of providing potable water to the people residing in their jurisdictions.

Justice Muslim asked the officials why they were developing new sectors and schemes and allowing constructions when they had failed even to provide drinking water to the people.

He warned that a ban could be imposed on new constructions till the issue of potable water was resolved. However, the DHA secretary informed the commission that they would install reverse osmosis plants while the desalination plant would also be made functional within a year.

The commission snubbed the DHA official and said that despite the passage of around nine years, they could not make the desalination plant operational.

Syed Asif Hyder Shah, a member of the task force, informed the commission that the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board was incapable of fulfilling the DHA's water requirement. The commission directed Mr Shah to interact with DHA and CBC officials for the immediate provision of clean potable water and file a report by May 28.

Realignments in K-IV project

The commission summoned the former project director of the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, better known as K-IV project, for Tuesday.

On the directive of the commission, the consultant of the K-IV project turned up on Monday to justify the realignments in the project 22 times.

However, the commission said that he tried to shift the burden onto the project director by claiming that the land within the project was required to be obtained and since it had not been acquired, he had to realign the project on the project director's directions.

The assistant commissioner of Malir said that the statement of the consultant was contrary to the record. He added that the land was acquired and was available apart from an area of five kilometres, which was under dispute.

The commission directed former project director Saleem Siddiqui to turn up on May 22 to file an explanation that who compelled him to direct realignment of the K-IV project.

"He should also satisfy the commission that he had the authority to issue such directions to the consultant without prior approval of the government as the project is being funded by the provincial and federal governments and alignment of such nature will definitely have bearing on the public exchequer," it added.

The commission also directed the assistant commissioner to produce the relevant record on Tuesday and asked the consultant to be in attendance during the hearing.

A resident of Usman Allah Rakhio Goth in Gadap Town had filed an application in a previous hearing and contended that the alignment, approved in 2016, was the only straight and shortest possible time/money-saving route.

However, he contended that realignment of the project was based on mala fide intention to achieve ulterior motives and to give benefit to Bahria Town Karachi and pleaded to set aside the realignments in K-IV.

Meanwhile, the commission directed the incumbent project director of the K-VI project to submit a report on May 28 about the issues needed to be attended and execution of work, which was now under way, after consulting with the KWSB managing director.

Water supply to Baldia Town

The commission directed Asif Hyder Shah and the KWSB MD to ensure that Baldia Town residents got their due share of water through the new Baldia hydrant.

Residents of the area complained of a shortage of water. The commission also asked the KWSB chief to ensure that a dedicated water supply line for the area must be completed by June 30.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 17, 22/05/2018)

DHA told to set up treatment plants by December

The judicial commission on water and sanitation has given time till December this year to the authorities to make sewage treatment plants functional to end pollution at Sea View Beach in Karachi being caused by the discharge of sewage. Justice (retd) Amir Hani Muslim, the head of the Supreme Court-mandated commission, ordered the defence secretary to submit an undertaking to the commission in this regard by May 28.



The secretary will have to assure the commission that sewage treatment plants will be installed for phases I to VII of Defence Housing Authority (DHA). "The proposed undertaking shall bind the officers of the DHA and Cantonment Board Clifton [CBC]," reads the commission's order.

CBC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Muhammad Sajjad Ahmed Khan informed the commission that the board would advertise tenders for the sewage treatment plants by May 23 and facilities will be made functional by December, 2018.

Judicial commission seeks plan for cleaning of drains

The commission directed the secretary to pledge in the undertaking that the sewage of DHA Phase-VIII would be connected to the treatment plant at Creek Vista Apartments, adjacent to the Defence Authority Golf Club. The commission gave four months to the defence secretary for the implementation of these orders.

The commission also heard the issue of supply of clean drinking water to the residents of DHA's phases I to VIII. Justice (retd) Muslim directed the provincial secretary and commission's focal person, Asif Haider Shah, to coordinate with the defence secretary and CBC CEO. Together, the officials will discuss to resolve drinking water supply issue and apprise the commission on May 28, the commission instructed.

The commission also took up the matter of the realignment of K-IV project through which 260 million gallons of water per day from the Indus River will be supplied to Karachi. It summoned former project director Saleem Siddiqi today (Tuesday) to explain whether he was authorised to change the alignment that had been causing the delay. The judicial commission also summoned the Malir deputy commissioner along with the relevant land records.

Judicial commission seeks report from ACE on pending corruption inquiries

The project being executed by the Frontier Works Organisation was initially scheduled to be completed by June 2018. The federal and Sindh governments are jointly financing the scheme.

Malir Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Ishaq rejected the justification provided by a K-IV project consultant, according to which the realignment was made because the required land could not be acquired. Ishaq claimed that the acquisition had largely been completed except for a five-kilometre stretch of land.

The incumbent director of the K-IV project, Asad Zamin, and Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) Managing Director (MD) Khalid Mehmood Shaikh sought time from the commission to submit details of the issues related to the project. Justice (ret'd) Muslim asked the two officials to come up with complete details on May 28.

Judicial commission orders early completion of filtration, sewage treatment schemes

The commission directed the focal person and KWSB MD to complete the work of water supply line for Baldia Town by June 30. After the project's completion, the town will be supplied water from the Baldia hydrant.

(By Z Ali The Express Tribune, 04, 22/05/2018)

Cleaning of storm-water drains to be completed soon, says mayor

Mayor Wasim Akhtar on Tuesday said that cleaning of storm-water drains and nullahs would be completed before the upcoming wet weather as over 80 per cent work had been carried out in the city.

He was talking to media during his visit to oversee the civic work at Dr Mehmood Hussain Road, Tariq Road, Razi Road, Jheel Park and PECHS.

The mayor said that he was himself supervising the work on cleaning of drains and said he had inspected the drain at Glass Tower being cleaned by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation.

He said that sewerage connection from factories and houses to storm-water drains must be removed otherwise they would overflow during monsoon rains and were bound to cause misery to the citizens.

Mr Akhtar said that citizens could never have a sigh of relief until civic problems such as water shortage and poor sanitation were resolved.

Managing Director of Karachi Water & Sewerage Board Khalid Mehmood, DMC East chairman Moeed Anwer, and other officers and engineers were also present on the occasion.

The mayor said that a 2,300ft water pipeline was laid in front of the Ferozabad Police Station for the residents of the vicinity, while sewerage system was also corrected to provide some relief to the people of this area.

He said encroachments was a big issue in the city and a full fledge mafia was behind the menace. "It can be dealt only with full planning for which help from law enforcement agencies is also sought."

Earlier on Monday, the mayor said that local government representatives needed encouragement and cooperation from all segments of society so that a collective effort would be made for the betterment of the city.

He was addressing the participants at an Iftar-dinner hosted by the KMC at Baradari, adjacent to Polo Ground. Sindh governor, caretaker chief minister, leaders of Muttahida Qaumi Movement and former members of Sindh Assembly were also present.

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

SC gives 30 days to Karachi municipal bodies to clean storm-water drains

The Supreme Court on Saturday directed the municipal authorities to clean sewers and storm-water drains across the city within a month.

Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar said that strict action would be taken if the authorities failed to comply with the court order within the stipulated period.

A three-judge SC bench, headed by the CJP and comprising Justice Faisal Arab and Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, was hearing a set of petitions and suo motu proceedings including non-provision of potable water and worsening sanitation conditions in Sindh, marine pollution, environmental hazards, verification of academic record of airlines' staff at the Supreme Court's Karachi registry.

When the bench asked Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar about the time frame for completion of the cleaning drive of sewers and storm-water drains, the mayor said the drive would begin from June 14.

The CJP imposes a ban on construction of walls for commercial outdoor advertisements in Karachi

The chief justice expressed displeasure over the delay and directed to complete it within a month and warned of severe action in case of non-compliance.

The court also directed the provincial government to provide required funds after Mr Akhtar said that there was a fund shortage.

Water commission term extended till December

The bench extended the term of the Supreme Court-mandated commission on water and sanitation till December.

Advocate Shahab Usto, who had petitioned the apex court over non-provision of potable water and worsening sanitation conditions in the province, submitted that the tenure of water commission, headed by retired Justice Amir Hani Muslim, would end next month. He requested the court to extend it till December 2019.

However, the chief justice said that he was retiring in January next year and can only extend it till December this year.

PMDC told to inspect medical, dental colleges

The bench directed the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) to inspect medical and dental colleges across the country.

A report regarding inspection of the Jinnah Medical and Dental College (JMDC) produced in court disclosed that the teaching facility was not complying with the regulations of 2012.

The apex court issued a notice to the chief executive of the JMDC directing him to appear in court on the next hearing along with his reply in this regard.

It also directed the PMDC authorities to continue to carry out inspections of the medical and dental colleges across the country.

An official of the Federal Investigation Agency informed the court that the private medical colleges had received around Rs750 million in the head of excessive fees from students.

Addressing senior lawyer Makhdoom Ali Khan, CJP Nisar in a lighter vein remarked that the institutions were acknowledging him for taking suo motu notices, but Mr Khan was objecting to the powers of the suo motu.

The FIA official submitted that the management of some colleges was also threatening the students. He submitted that some colleges had been receiving huge donations, but they were still charging heavy fees from the students.

The officer added that some colleges charge up to Rs1.8m fee from each student while some others gave admission to local students on seats reserved for foreigners.

He said that the condition of some of the private medical colleges operating in Sindh was even worse. The chief justice remarked that the future of the students would not be allowed to be spoiled, adding that the excessive fees received by the colleges would be refunded.

The chief justice remarked that the PMDC was working actively and impartially, as former federal minister Dr Asim Hussain was no more part of the national regulatory body.

Order to demolish advertisement wall on Sharea Faisal

The apex court directed the authorities concerned to demolish a wall built on Sharea Faisal for the purpose of displaying commercial advertisements.

It also imposed a ban on constructing such walls and using them for any commercial outdoor advertisements in future.

The chief justice inquired from the chief executive officer of the Cantonment Board Karachi as to who had built such walls in his area. The officer said that the cantonment board had issued notices to the private advertising firms.

CJP Nisar remarked that merely issuing notices to advertisers would not serve any purpose.

Petitioner Ashraf Saeed informed the judges that a wall had been built near FTC building on Sharea Faisal and several other such walls had also been raised in various areas.

He said such walls were defacing the beauty of the city and asked the court to order the authorities concerned to demolish them.

Foreign content on TV channels

The court directed the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority to take strict action against all those private TV channels showing more than 10 per cent foreign content allowed under the law.

The chief justice remarked that these channels would be airing vulgar content on the eve of Eid. Therefore, he directed the Pemra chief to take action against them before Eid.

Earlier, the Pemra chairman, through the additional attorney general, submitted a report that the authority had issued licences to 38 entertainment channels to operate in the country, adding 23 of them were showing foreign content.

The chief justice observed that cable operators also aired Indian movies throughout the day and inquired from the Pemra chief as to why no action was taken against such channels' management.

The court also directed him to take action against the cable operators.

The Pemra chief said that action was taken against the management of television channels, but they obtained stay orders against the authority.

The CJP directed all the high courts' chief justices to ensure all the cases assailing the orders/notices by Pemra should be disposed of within 10 days.

It directed the office to facsimile a copy of the order to the registrars of all the high courts.

Over 3,000 degrees verified

The bench directed the Civil Aviation Authority to submit a report within six weeks after completion of the verification of the academic record of pilots and staff of all airlines.

The bench was informed that two private airlines — Shaheen and Serene — had submitted record of pilots and staff to the CAA, adding that out of 132 degree/academic certificates of Serene 92 had so far been verified while over 135 out of 245 degrees of Airblue staff had been confirmed.

The officials said out of over 5,800 degrees, around 2,900 degrees of pilots and staff of the Pakistan International Airlines had so far been verified.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 17, 10/06/2018)

Choked nullahs may cause urban flooding



The cleaning of rainwater drains in the city before the monsoon season has hit snags as the district municipal corporations (DMC) have claimed that the funds provided to them for the purpose are insufficient.

The Sindh government approved Rs1.23 billion for the cleaning of drains and issued Rs500 million to the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC). After a judicial decree, funds were also issued to the DMCs to carry out the cleaning work.

However, the DMC chairpersons rejected the amount of Rs5 million given to each district, claiming it was insufficient for the work.

There are over 500 rainwater drains in the metropolis, of which 36 major ones fall under the jurisdiction of the KMC, whereas, the DMCs are responsible for the rest of drains.

Commenting on the situation, DMC East Chairperson Moeed Anwar said labour force and machinery were required for cleaning the nullahs. He added that besides cleaning, the drains also needed to be repaired. The DMC East chairperson claimed that the amount Rs5 million provided by the chief secretary to the DMC was too meagre to have the nullahs cleaned.

Judicial commission comes down hard on KWSB

Anwar called for carrying out a survey to estimate the amounts required by each DMC for cleaning nullahs within their jurisdictions, adding that billions of rupees were required to perform the cleaning of drains which were filled with litter.

KMC geared up

Meanwhile, Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar has claimed that on the instructions of the Supreme Court and the Judicial Commission on Water and Sanitation, the KMC has finalised its arrangements for the cleaning of 36 major storm water drains in the city.

The mayor shared these details while presiding over a special meeting which was attended by Metropolitan Commissioner Dr Saifur Rehman, Coordination Senior Director Masood Alam and others. The mayor lamented that many storm water drains in the city had turned into sewage drains.

Work on four large drains was commenced before Eid in view of the predictions of rain from July 15 onwards, the mayor said. The four drains include Orangi Town Nullah, Gujjar Nullah, Manzoor Colony Nullah and Khayyam Canal.

Judicial commission wants proper disposal of filth taken out from nullahs

The mayor claimed that the cleaning work was resumed on Tuesday after it remained suspended during the Eid holidays. The Supreme Court has given a deadline of 30 days for the cleaning of drains and the KMC wants to ensure significant improvement in the drainage system before it ends. The Judicial Commission on Water and Sanitation had also warned of urban flooding if the nullahs were not cleared before the monsoon.

According to Akhtar, due to the lack of a proper mechanism for solid waste disposal in Karachi, 60% of garbage produced in the city was being dumped into the nullahs, causing them to choke.

The KMC is trying to make sure that the drains are in a working condition before the monsoon starts, Akhtar said, adding that the provincial government had issued necessary funds to the civic body on the instructions of the apex court.

A letter has been sent to the Sindh government for the release of an additional Rs720 million, Akhtar said. He asserted that cleaning of minor drains was as necessary as the cleaning of major drains as rainwater reached the major drains through minor ones.

Monitoring teams formed to meet judicial commission's deadline

Taking notice of the lack of funds available with the DMCs to clean the drains, the Judicial Commission on Water and Sanitation had recently directed the provincial government to provide funds to all the DMCs.

In the meantime, the mayor has also appealed to the residents of Karachi to cooperate with the administration in the cleaning the canals. He has requested house owners to terminate their sewerage connections in case they are linked with the drains. He has also asked citizens to throw garbage into designated spots.

Monsoon predictions

According to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Director Abdul Rasheed, monsoon rains will hit the city between July 15 and September 15. The pre-monsoon season, however, will begin in the city in early July.

The PMD officer also predicted that Karachi will receive less rains in the monsoon season than other parts of the country.

(By Our Correspondents The Express Tribune, 04, 20/06/2018)

PQA industrialists given three months to install treatment plants

The Supreme Court-mandated commission on water and sanitation in Sindh on Monday directed the owners of industrial units situated in the Port Qasim Authority (PQA) industrial zone to install treatment plants within three months.

It also asked the PQA to lay sewerage pipelines outside the industries within two months which would be linked by the industries after contaminated water was treated.

The commission warned around 10 industrialists that their industrial units would be sealed if they failed to comply with its directive within the stipulated period.

The head of the commission, retired apex court judge Justice Amir Hani Muslim also expressed resentment over the absence of around 15 industrialists who neither turned up in person nor sent their representatives in compliance with the summons issued by the commission. The commission directed the senior superintendent of police to ensure the appearance of those owners of industrial units through the station house officers of the police stations concerned on Tuesday (today).

Judicial commission tells police to ensure presence of summoned owners of industrial units

PQA's pledge

At the outset, the owner of a pharmaceutical company undertook to install a treatment plant on the firm's premises, but complained that there was no sewerage line of the PQA to connect with the industries' sewerage lines after contaminated water was treated.

However, PQA officials assured the commission that the authority would provide sewerage lines within two months as the scheme was operative in the north-west zone.

A number of officials of the industries contended that their owners were abroad and would appear before court on June 26 and 28. The commission directed them to file undertakings of the owners that treatment plants would be set up within three months.

It also ruled that the periodical progress for proposed installation of a treatment plant would be gathered by the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) director general through his director and the PQA.

The commission directed some other industrialists to install septic tanks within two months while notices earlier issued to a few were discharged after they submitted that they had septic tanks on their premises and Sepa did not dispute the same.

Unconditional apologies

Two companies tendered unconditional apologies for not providing access to officials of Sepa for inspection and said the factories could be visited at any time.

The commission also directed two other firms to deposit the penalty amount of Rs1 million imposed by the PQA within two days.

Some of the industries' officials contended that they were not required to install treatment plants as they did not discharge any industrial waste.

The commission directed Dr Ghulam Murtaza of the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources to inspect the industries in question and submit a report. He was also told to inspect whether the septic tanks at different industrial units were functional.

A few firms said that they had primary treatment plants, but Sepa officials stated that such plants did not cater to the standards for the discharge of waste. The commission directed them to install standard treatment plants within three months.

The commission had visited the PQA on June 13 after receiving complaints from different quarters about draining untreated industrial waste into the sea and the chairman informed it that most of the industries did not have treatment plants on their premises and they were directly discharging liquid waste/industrial effluent into the sea, and also provided a list of such industries to the commission.

The commission was further informed that not only the PQA but Sepa had also issued notices, but apart from a few, all the industries within the industrial zones of the PQA were still draining industrial waste directly into the sea.

The commission had issued notices to the owners of all the industries mentioned in the list provided by the PQA to appear in person before it and justify the discharge of untreated industrial waste into the sea. (By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 17, 26/06/2018)

Commission wants treatment plants in factories installed on priority

The Supreme Court-mandated Judicial Commission on Water and Sanitation continued hearing the case involving installation of in-house treatment plants and septic tanks in factories operating in Port Qasim Authority (PQA).



Management representatives and owners of various factories, including Sigma and Nextra, appeared before the commission at the Sindh High Court.

The members censured the owners for negligence over the installation of treatment plants and demanded the management to determine a timeframe for their installation.

The owners told the commission that they were willing to install treatment plants at their factories provided they were given time. The commission considered their request and gave three months' time to the factories.

Responding to a question regarding the non-installation of treatment plants, a representative of Nextra claimed that the company's factory had not been operational for some time. However, the management would get treatment plants installed within six months, he said.

The commission considered the request and allowed a special concession of six-months to Nextra.

Judicial commission directs focal person to coordinate between agencies

The commission came down hard on the management of Hafeez Oil and Ghee Company for non-appearance of its owners at the hearing.

It directed the SSP to produce the company's owners at the next hearing, which is scheduled for tomorrow (Thursday).

The commission also expressed displeasure over the non-appearance of a flour mill's owner, Mushtaq Ahmed Shah, and issued a Rs50,000 bailable arrest warrant against him. The commission directed the authorities to produce Shah and the owners of Reliance Exzine Industry and Mandviwala Motors at the next hearing.

The commission granted Oil and Ghee Industry three months to install treatment plants and warned the owners of industrial units that their factories would be sealed in case they did not install the effluent treatment plants.

Pollution, filth repulses judicial commission

The court reissued reminder notices to M/S Terminal One Company, asking to expedite the process of installation of treatment plants.

The commission also addressed the issues surrounding garbage collection and disposal in Hyderabad, including problems relating to the Kachra Funds Industry.

The Hyderabad mayor was present at the hearing to detail the issues to the commission.

The Water and Sanitation Agency deputy commissioner, municipal commissioner, and Hyderabad cantonment chief executive officer were directed to present themselves in court on Friday to provide more details and explain the problems.

Earlier on Monday, the management of several PQA factories submitted separate undertakings to the commission in this regard.

The commission had heard the management of 32 industrial units in PQA. Justice (retd) Amir Hani Muslim, the commission's head, had directed the police to produce the owners of 15 other industries before the commission who had failed to appear on Monday's hearing.

For eight industries, the commission had directed a senior research officer of the Pakistan Council of Research on Water Resources, Dr Ghulam Murtaza, to determine whether they required the installation of treatment plants. The factories included Astro Plastic Industries, Tri Pack Films, Syed Hassan Javed furniture and kitchen utensils industry, Nasreen Jalil, Kompass Pakistan, APL Cargo and Freight Station, Izhar Building Material, Skill Glass and Sulemanjee Esmailjee and Sons. If the research officer concluded that they needed treatment plants, they would have to install them in two months.

Judicial commission comes down hard on KWSB

The judicial commission had also given two months to PQA to lay down sewerage lines in some areas of the industrial zones where factories had not been connected with the central drainage system.
(THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 05, 27/06/2018)