

EDITORIAL



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Why forego dialogue for dramatics?

Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain met Maulana Fazlur-Rehman, the chief of his own faction of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, at the latter's residence on Wednesday to invite him to join the anti-government alliance. Hussain also sought Rehman's support for the 10-point agenda

agreed between the former and Pakistan Awami Tehreek chief Tahir-ul-Qadri. Addressing the media following the meeting, Hussain said meetings would be held with the leaders of all political parties of the country to garner support for the 10-point agenda. All reservations about the cur-

rent Pakistani government should be addressed through dialogue. Forming anti-government alliances could be seen as an attempt to topple the administration, which is akin to com-

mitting treason against the state. Our political leaders appear to do everything except engage in a healthy, productive dialogue to discuss their grievances and arrive at a consensus regarding the solutions to their and the nation's issues. The government should take action against the parties that are

involved in conspiring against the administration. Even if the government is corrupt or weak, scheming against the administration is unlawful and it would achieve nothing except bring a bad name to our country, which already has a negative reputation among its neighbours and other countries abroad.



Reforms in Irrigation Sector Sindh

Sindh Irrigation system is the part of Indus Basin Irrigation System which is world's largest irrigation system. Consisting of Three Barrages (constructed on River Indus) and 14 off-taking main canals, connected to a web of branch canals, distributaries and minors, it supplies water to around 5.8 million ha of irrigated land to generate 90% of agricultural production in the province. The management of Irrigation system in Sindh is currently under transition. Historically, Irrigation Department managed and operated all barrages, main canals, distributaries, minors and drainage infrastructure in the province. However, heavily centralized management system accompanied with governance issues and underfunding was not able to resolve the serious operation & maintenance (O&M) problems effectively, which resulted in continuous deterioration of the system.

Contemporary world experiences show that, it is virtually impossible for government alone to manage, operate and maintain the irrigation and drainage system without the stakeholder's participation. World over emerging scenarios of irrigation and drainage system management suggest that, excellent results have been achieved through farmers participation in the operation, maintenance and management of irrigation and drainage systems and ultimately making them fully responsible for that. In accordance with the SIDA Act-1997 and SWMO-2002, which are

the bases of reform in Sindh Province, Sindh Irrigation & Drainage Authority was set up at provincial level to operate and manage Irrigation and Drainage system at Barrage level. The authority is confined, in addition to government officials, with the representation of farmers and water users in decision making process. This is followed by establishment of Area Water Boards (AWBs) at main canal level and establishment of Farmers Organizations (FOs) on each distributary/minor with full management responsibility of system at their level. The SIDA and AWBs are being governed with joint representation of government as well as farmers/water users, but the FOs are entirely farmer based entities to exercise independent judgment in the conduct of their own business. So, the public and private partnership was established to decentralize the irrigation system.

Implementation of Reforms - Progress Achieved so far Irrigation & Drainage system in Sindh is just partially transferred to new participatory management bodies with the establishment of SIDA and three AWBs. The performance of the newly formed system is encouraging but not equal to the level of earlier expectations. The executive bodies of SIDA and AWBs are still struggling and trying to perform their roles and responsibilities as assigned to them under the law. However, SIDA and AWBs have successfully accomplished a lot of activities since their inception and are progressing towards full performance of their articulated functions. Starting with institutional development of SIDA and AWBs, induction of new professional staff in these organizations (in different fields) has increased their capability and has also improved their performance to make them able to deal smoothly, effectively and efficiently with their official business. One of the most important achievements is to bring in the transparency in the procurement process of all works/contracts in the jurisdiction of SIDA and AWBs, which has also been positively recognized by Transparency International Pakistan, World Bank and the Government of Sindh. During the floods in 2010 and 2011, SIDA and AWBs successfully handled the assigned duties of flood disaster early warning and post disaster mitigation. Honourable Parliamentarians of the country recognized this contribution of SIDA and AWBs on the assembly floor. In addition to that, SIDA managing successfully many different development projects funded by World Bank as well as provincial and Federal government in the sector and has brought improvement in service delivery, crops yield and cropping pattern.

Strong linkages with National and International organizations have been developed. A unique project of Cash for Work was successfully completed in partnership with World Food Program (WFP) during December, 2012. SIDA is providing professional/technical support in implementation of ADB funded flood works and also extended professional help to the government in Coal & Energy sector which are clear indicators of the enhanced capacity of SIDA/AWBs. Currently, SIDA in coordination with AWBs is managing most important World Bank financed Sindh Water Sector Improvement Project Phase-I (WSIP-I) wherein SIDA is playing the role of lead implementing agency of the project. The progress implementation performance of the project has been rated by the World Bank as satisfactory. Formation of FOs has almost been completed in three AWBs and growth and development of FOs is at semi advance stage. The FOs have improved their performance over the time. Up to now, 8% of them have reached full capacity and 40% of them are involved in Abiana collection. It may not be remarkable in terms of figures, but very encouraging in terms of the future of FOs and their determination & enthusiasm to handle the responsibilities assigned to them, which is a meaningful indicator of the WSIP Project's contribution.

The communication of FOs with SIDA/AWB is much improved and farmers/water users are more self-confident in terms of participating in the management of irrigation and drainage system and protecting their common concerns against influential rural elites. Issues and Options: Regardless of above mentioned performance of SIDA and AWBs, the progress on implementation of irrigation reforms as whole has remained slow because of many reasons mentioned below. Holding of SIDA Board meetings on regular basis and discussing and approving all activities (technical and financial) of SIDA will definitely help to achieve the positive results. Absence of Regulatory Authority (RA), which was supposed to be established in 2002 as per SWMO, is also another factor of slow progress towards successful reforms. Although SIDA Board is presently holding the responsibility of RA but, it is not properly functional due to ineffectiveness of SIDA Board itself. Current situation can improve substantially with the establishment of proper Regulatory Authority. According to SWMO-2002, all Barrages along with drainage and floods protection infrastructure including staff, budget and assets were required to be transferred to SIDA before June, 2005, but unfortunately not a single barrage has been transferred to SIDA as yet. Presently SIDA is confined with only three AWBs instead of total 14 canal circles, therefore, it is difficult for SIDA to play its role of distribution of irrigation water to AWBs and to collect water charges and also to maintain the system at its own to reduce O&M

burden from government. It can only be materialized with positively committed political will and support of the government decision makers. The Boards of AWBs are functioning, but not in reality. The Chairman and farmers members of the Board are appointed whereas, as per law, they have to be elected from the farmers community through proper democratic election process. Presently, all technical members operating the main canal system of AWBs belong to irrigation department and their administrative control has not fully been transferred towards successful reforms. Although SIDA Board is presently holding the responsibility of RA but, it is not properly functional due to ineffectiveness of SIDA Board itself. Current situation can improve substantially with the establishment of proper Regulatory Authority. According to SWMO-2002, all Barrages along with drainage and floods protection infrastructure including staff, budget and assets were required to be transferred to SIDA before June, 2005, but unfortunately not a single barrage has been transferred to SIDA as yet. Presently SIDA is confined with only three AWBs instead of total 14 canal circles, therefore, it is difficult for SIDA to play its role of distribution of irrigation water to AWBs and to collect water charges and also to maintain the system at its own to reduce O&M

Abiana is one of the major obstacle on the way towards success. AWBs need funds for maintenance of the system at main canals level. Up to now the assessment, calculation and also rate of collection are same as were before formation of the AWBs. Neither unit rates for water charging have been revised nor have calculations for water rates (Abiana) been done on realistic basis by considering all incurring expenditures on operation and maintenance of the system. Consequently, collection of Abiana has not improved and AWBs still depend on the government subsidy to operate and maintain the system. Revision of (Abiana) water charging based on the actual worked out rates followed by proper assessment and collection is most important for AWBs to operate, maintain and manage their system independently. This will also reduce the government liability, which is one of the main objectives of the reforms. The above mentioned issues in Irrigation Sector Reforms in Sindh can easily be resolved with the support of policy makers. The ensured success of reforms is vital for best services to the beneficiaries and also for the betterment of the province. Pen by: Dr. Ylii Dedja, Team Leader, Food & Agriculture Organization, working as Project Management Consultant/Agent under Water Sector Improvement Project



DC visits Larkana Press Club

LARKANA: Deputy Commissioner Larkana Ghanwar Ali Leghari has said that on the directives of Chairman PPP Bawal Bhutto Zardari, Sindh government has approved Rs. 801 millions for up-gradation of sewerage system in Larkana city. This he said while talking to newsmen at Larkana Press Club during his visit on Tuesday evening. The DC further said that the master plan of the city will be prepared for the future township planning and developments. He added that builders are establishing colonies and other housing schemes but are reluctant to provide basic facilities like sewerage and internal roads, which is illegal, he said. Ghanwar Ali Leghari said that one more girls college for the female students. The TMA will charge Rs. 50 as tax on every house for cleanliness facility, he added.

Woman raped by looters at Superhighway

KOTRI: Two armed robbers intercepted a Mirpurkhas bound car at Super Highway near Nooriabad, and after looting the valuables and cash, raped a woman, RT scribe learnt. The incident took place near Roolani Hotel. The affected woman, who is now lying in a hospital, has filed a complaint with DIG Hyderabad Sanaulah Abbasi, on which the Nooriabad Police registered a case while the police did not mention the rape allegation in the FIR. After the incident was reported, the DIG Hyderabad and SSP Jamshoro Wasi Hyder reached the Nooriabad Police Station and called all the influential persons of Nooriabad including Badal Palani, Alam Palani, Haji Ramzan Palani, Dur Muhammad Palani and others, to notify the criminals in their area. When this pressman contacted the SSP Jamshoro, he expressed his ignorance of the matter.

driver whereas the corpses were shifted to Hyderabad, and later to Garbat. Meanwhile, the Jamshoro Police recovered a bullet-riddled body of a 35 year old man. The identity of the deceased couldn't be ascertained thus the body was handed over to Edhi Foundation. In Jamshoro Thermal Power House Colony, a man namely Abdul Quddoos was electrocuted. A 14-year old child Haseebuddin drowned while bathing in the Indus River. The drivers were searching for the dead body till the filing of this news. On the other hand, Nizam, 44, was shot reportedly by a man namely Abbas Narejo, in village Muhammad Siddiq near Kotri SITE.

Security beefed up at Kotri Railway Station Security has been beefed up at the Kotri Railway Station keeping in view current scenario of country. The Divisional Superintendent Pakistan Railway Mr. Nisar Memon on Wednesday visited the Kotri Railway Station along with Deputy Divisional Superintendent Ibrahim Rajper and other officials. Speaking to media at this occasion, Memon said that the country was facing sensitive situation, thus the security was being elevated at all Railway Stations. In response to a question, he said that the action against the encroachments wasn't halted, and that another operation will be carried out on 27 June to free the railway's lands. At this occasion, President of Labor Union Kotri Ghulam Abbas and others met with the DS and complained about the supply of unfilled water in Railway Colony, on which the official issued directives to the concerned department to resolve the problems of Railway Colony. He was accompanied by EN Kotri Ghulam Qadir Laho, IOW Muhammad Adil and others.

Eye on the Heartland



LARKANA: A youngster is seen jumping in the Rice Canal to get relief from sizzling hot weather.—Agency.

5 die in different incidents in Jamshoro

Five people were killed in different incidents that took place in Jamshoro on Wednesday. According to details, a car heading to Garbat from Karachi was hit by a truck near Nooriabad, resulting in death of Ghulam Mustafa Sinaik, 45, and Tayaba, 12. The Police quickly arrested the truck

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PTI Jamshoro protests against killing of PAT workers in Lahore

Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf on Wednesday staged a protest demonstration against the attack on and killing of Pakistan Awami Tehrik workers in Lahore, here at Indus Highway near Jamshoro. Speaking at this occasion, President PTI Jamshoro Lal Muhammad Berohi, General Secretary Javed Khattak and others condemned the Government of Punjab and demanded action against the people involved in killing of PAT workers. The protest lasted for 1 hour, after which the protestors disbanded peacefully.

job province so called champion of democracy added that protest is basic and fundamental right of citizens to raise voice for their rights, Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif respect their claims being lovers of democracy, he said. Sajad Nasheen announced that Dargah Mashori Sharif will continue the moral and political support for Allama Tahir ul Qadri who is struggle against the menace of corruption, injustice and other failure policies of government. He said that Shahbaz Sharif has proved himself Narendra Modi and Halaiko Khan on killing of innocent people of peaceful religious organization, which is deplorable. Shafi Muhammad Mashori appealed to Military leadership to overthrow the inefficient and corrupt government of PML N and form national government. Earlier Shafi Muhammad Mashori congratulated to newly elected President Larkana Press Club S Iqbal Babu and other office bearers and presented the gifts of Topi and Ajraks on the occasion. Meanwhile Chairman Pakistan WAFDA Hydro Electric Labor Union Abdul Latif Nizamani, Regional Chairman SEPCO Nisar Ahmed Shaikh and other leaders visited the Larkana Press Club and congratulated to newly elected office bearers of Larkana Press Club.

Fee reimbursement ceremony re-scheduled for Monday at IBA Sukkur

KHAIROPUR: A spokesperson of Shah Abdul Latif University, has announced on Wednesday, that the Prime Minister's fee reimbursement ceremony, which was to be held on 22 June, at IBA Sukkur has been rescheduled for Monday next. Mrs Maryam Nawaz Sharif Chairperson Prime Minister's Youth Development Program will be the chief guest of the ceremony. The 1604 beneficiary students are informed to attend this ceremony on Monday.

Sadique Memon assures PPP workers of full support

THATTA: PPP Secretary General and Chairman District Development Committee Sadique Ali Memon has said that the PPP will never spare party workers alone and will help them because the party relies on the workers and the workers are assets of the party. He said this while condoling with the heirs of PPP worker who died due to hosting party flag at an electric pole in Ghoro city few days ago, here on Wednesday. He gave away cheque of rupees three lacs to the heirs of the deceased worker and assured them that the party will never leave them alone and he vowed to keep continue helping family of the deceased worker. Survey regarding cyclone affected persons finalized On the directives of Sindh government, a survey was conducted by the revenue department Thatta to collect data of villages affected by cyclone of four coastal talukas of the district including KT Bandar, Khano Chitan, Sakro and Ghorabari by DC Thatta office here on Wednesday. The report said that 3 thousand families were affected by high tides of sea and 7 protective bands of different villages suffered breaches. Meanwhile station is being provided to the families and DC Thatta has recommended to the Sindh government to construct ring bands for 17 villages of coastline to keep these safe at perpetual basis to avoid for ever disasters in future. DC Thatta Agha Shah Nawaz has formed committee under the leadership of ADC Ghorabari Ghulam Mohammed Korejo to fill the breach occurred the protective bands of the villages. Meanwhile 7 hand pumps were installed in the affected villages and 10 others will be installed in next few days told DC Thatta.

Vaccinators boycott their duties, lock 44 EPI centres against alleged misappropriation in measles drive funds

LARKANA: Vaccinators boycotted their duties of national program and locked 44 EPI centers in Larkana district against alleged misappropriation of measles funds by District Health Officer and Deputy District Health Officer Health Larkana. Hundreds of women at Children Hospital and other centers along with their babies faced many hardships. Central President Vaccinator Welfare Association Sindh Qadir Bux Pizzado, Vice Chairman VWA Maula Bux Chaudhio led the protest and preside over the meeting at old DHO office against the anti employee policy. Talking to media men they alleged that DHO office Larkana received Rs 9.4 millions for Measles last month for celebrating the 10 days anti Measles campaign from 19 May to 30 May 2014, all funds were misappropriated by concerned officials, but no amount could use for mass public awareness activities. They said that on the central call given by Vaccinator Welfare Association Sindh, 100 Vaccinators out of 118 have boycotted their duties and locked the 44 EPI Centers, adding that poor vaccinators are performing their rational services for EPI program to protect the children from

Lahore incident has unveiled real face of Punjab rulers: Shafi Muhammad Mashori

Sajad Nasheen of Dargah Mashori Sharif Shafi Muhammad Mashori has said that Lahore incident has unveiled the real face of rulers in center and Punjab government, innocent protesters were brutally killed and tortured by Punjab Police showing the worst atrocity and suppression, he said this while addressing a press conference at the Larkana Press Club on Wednesday. Shafi Muhammad Mashori strongly condemned the incident took place in Pun-

9 fatal diseases among Polio, Measles, TB, Diphtheria, Hepatitis, Meningitis and others. They said that concerned authorities of Health department are trying to make groups in organization of vaccinators to divert the attention from the Rs 9.4 million funds for Measles. They demanded of Chief Minister Sindh, MNA Faryal Talpur, Provincial Health Minister and other high ups to take notice of matter and resolve the issue of Vaccinators, other wise they will continue their protest and boycott of their duties.