

White coat reflects real personality of doctors

Services of women in medical field commendable

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Principal Post Graduate Medical Institute & Lahore General Hospital Prof. Dr. Sardar Muhammad Al-freed Zafar has said that the white coat is a reflection of the real personality of the doctors and their beauty which is a symbol of service to the suffering humanity.

He added that no society can develop without research and heaving latest knowledge.

He stressed that Pakistani youth is not less than any other country in the world in terms of their abilities and talent and the need is to guide them to use their abilities and energies in the right direction.

These views were expressed by Prof. Al-freed Zafar while addressing the MBBS students enrolled in the 9th session of Ameer Uddin Medical College. Former Principal PGMI/AMC/LGH Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tayyab was the Chief Guest of this ceremony said that these young medical students are fortunate to be able to serve humanity without any distinction of color, race or creed. He added that it is important for us to come into

this field with a special passion and a claim to serve the really needy ones. After acquiring this passion and determination, we must also serve the patients while maintaining it in practical life," Prof. Mohammad Tayyab further said.

Prof. Al-freed Zafar said that female doctors are at the forefront in the field of medicine and by treating and serving patients during the Corona epidemic, they have demonstrated their skills and are on the list of front line medical workers in this epidemic.

The names of female doctors and nurses will be written in golden letters, he claimed. He urged the young medical students that medicine is known as a sacred profession all over the world so the students coming in this field have to focus all their attention on education and research so that they can become a talented in their field.

Principal PGMI stressed that they have to pay full attention to discipline and respect for their teachers in order to realize the dreams of their parents. He said that there is only one PGMI in Pakistan where experienced professors are available to impart higher education

to graduate and under graduate doctors. He said that PGMI/AMC are two types of the same Institutions and doctors graduated from here are valued all over the world. He said that wearing white coat is the beginning of moral responsibilities, high requirements and trust for which these students should remain ready. Prof. Farooq Afzal, Prof. Maneza Saeed, Prof. Muhammad Moin, and other faculty members, including Dr. Saira Gulzar, were also present on the occasion. MBBS students were happy to wear the white coat. They pledged to make a name for themselves in the field in future with hard work and dedication.

Meanwhile, Principal of Ameer Uddin Medical College, Prof. Al-freed Zafar, while talking to the media after the ceremony, on the occasion of International Women's Day, said that the role of women community in the medical field is not hidden from anyone, nurses and lady doctors in this field are always on the front foot to serve the suffering humanity and today's Women's Day is dedicated to the young nurses and doctors who have established high traditions of duty in any difficulty from dengue to corona.

LHC grants interim bail to Capt Safdar in assets case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Monday granted interim pre-arrest bail to Capt (ret'd) Muhammad Safdar, son-in-law of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, in an inquiry into alleged assets beyond means being conducted by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

A two-member bench comprising Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Asjad Javaid Ghural heard the pre-arrest bail petition, filed by Muhammad Safdar, and also sought a reply from the NAB authorities by March 29. Safdar appeared before the bench along with his counsel at the start of proceedings.

The petitioner's counsel argued that his client had received a call-up notice from NAB Lahore asking him to appear before its combined investigation team (CIT) to explain his assets. He submitted that an

inquiry into his assets was also pending at NAB Peshawar, whereas the petitioner had also filed a pre-arrest bail plea at Peshawar High Court in connection with the inquiry. He submitted that an inquiry into a single matter could not be conducted in two provinces and the call-up notice issued by the bureau showed mala fide. He submitted that NAB could arrest the petitioner, therefore, a pre-arrest bail be granted to him. Subsequently, the court restrained the bureau from arresting the petitioner till March 29 and also sought a reply. The bureau had summoned Capt Safdar for March 10 with a direction to present the record of all properties in his name and his family members. Safdar had been asked to bring complete record of all movable and immovable properties including agricultural, residential, commercial and other assets, owned by him, his family members besides bank accounts details.

Aurat Foundation hosts Women Leadership Assembly at RPC to mark Int'l Women's Day

RAWALPINDI: To mark International Women's Day, Aurat Foundation on Monday hosted a Women Leadership Assembly here at the Rawalpindi Press Club (RPC) followed by a women's rally.

This celebration brought together women leaders from PTI, PMLN and PPP, human rights activists, artists and around 100 other women under the network "Women Alliance Pakistan."

Mr. Christopher Khung, Head of Co-operation, High Commission of Canada was also present at the event. Political parties' representatives, Ms. Tahira Aurenzaib, Member of the National Assembly (PML-N), Ms. Abida Munir (PTI) and Ms. Sumera Khan, City President (PPP) on the occasion discussed strategies to mainstream women in leadership positions in political parties and legislatures.

Ms. Rubina Akbar, ex-councilor (PTI), Ms. Samina Shoaib, ex-councilor (PML-N) and Ms. Azra Younas, ex-councilor (PPP) stressed the need and significance of women leadership in local governments. Ms. Aliya Mirza, poet, artist and

activist and Ms. Huma, shared poetry. Ms. Tahira Abdullah, human rights activist on the occasion presented a list of demands.

Ms. Mumtaz Mughal, Director Programmes, Aurat Foundation and Naeem Ahmed Mirza, Executive Director, Aurat Foundation also spoke at the event and gave an overview of the 2021 International Women's Day theme - "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 World" and Ms. Razia Sultana, President of the Women Alliance Pakistan gave concluding remarks. The event was followed by a rally. There was also a video screening of a feminist song and a community activist, Ms. Tahira Mushtaq presented a "Charter of Demands" for local government reforms. Some of the reforms requested were the inclusion of women, transgender and youth in all parts of the local government including having access to votes, local governments having the same quota for women representatives as exists in the federal government, the creation of women caucuses and improvements to



LAHORE: Woman farmers work in a strawberries field at Sagian area.

In the land of Zainabs and Benazirs

PROF KHAULA WALAYAT

source investment in women by the family and the State.

Pakistan ranks second lowest in the world for gender equality, placing at number 148 out of 149 countries.

The nation ranked 146 in economic participation and opportunity and 97th in political empowerment. This land of great courageous women Like Muhtarma Benazir Bhutto, Asma Jahangir, Sabeen Mahmood, Malala Yousaf zai and much more.

Most of them got killed by extremists. Living in the land where extremism runs in blood and it is difficult to raise a voice and do productive struggle against patriarchal cliches. But these women did so our innocents Zainabs could not be get raped and silenced. Such frustrated, exhausted, terrifying environment is creating mentalities where women are objects not subjects.

Before raising questions to slogans appears on Women Day, such mentalities should realize the place from where we are coming. Being in the fight of equality we, women, are not fighting for who is better rather sharing the same space, opportunities, respect, value and say in matters as much as our male counterparts have. Gender is one of the organizing principles of Pakistani society. Patriarchal values embedded in local traditions and culture predetermine the social value of gender. An artificial divide between production and reproduction, created by the ideology of sexual division of labour, has placed women in reproductive roles as mothers and wives in the private arena of home and men in a productive role as bread winners in the public arena. This has led to a low level of re-

Thus, low investment in women's human capital, compounded by the ideology of purdah (literally "veiled"), negative social biases and cultural practices; the concept of honour linked with women's sexuality; restrictions on women's mobility; and the internalization of patriarchy by women themselves, becomes, the basis for gender discrimination and disparities in all spheres of life.

We are not outraged enough. We are not angry enough. We are not speaking up enough. We are not resisting enough. That's why our sisters are still getting killed in the name of 'honour'. There are at least 11 rape cases reported in Pakistan every day with over 22,000 rape cases reported to police across the country in the last six years, according to official statistics. However, only 77 accused have been convicted which comprise 0.3% of the total figure. A May 12, 2020 report of the 'Gulf News' states: "An alarming increase has been observed in cases of crime/ violence against women and children in Pakistan during the first quarter of 2020.

A periodical report titled "Tracking crimes against people - A numeric tale of human insecurity," which has been released by rights group "Sustainable Social Development Organization" has revealed a 200 per cent increase in cases of violence against women in Pakistan in the past three months. The report, based on print media coverage of such incidents during the above-mentioned period, also shows the crime rate kept fluctuating during the period as 73 per cent drop was witnessed during the

month of February but a spike of up to 360 per cent was witnessed during the month of March 2020."Pakistan is among the 10 worst countries when it comes to rape cases. Around 14,850 kidnapping cases involving women, children and girls have been reported in Punjab during the last one year. Around 10,000 rape cases were reported in Punjab during the last three and a half years, from January 2014 to June 2017.

Some 2,000 women were kidnapped and 80pc of them were allegedly raped during last year, while 15 per cent of these were killed.

In the country with such alarming statistics of rape cases when a bill to pass on a law on rape is presented in assembly a sitting minister oppose the bill. In such country patriarchy only take tolls on women's life and survival. Pakistani women face domestic verbal, physical and psychological violence. The only way to solve women problems is to change the mindset. Only right education, at home equality training and social pressure towards men to behave properly with the females inside and outside the home. Women 'Azadi March; is the right practice to create such social pressure. I request all the men in society stop neutralizing abuse, rape and violence against women. Characters like Khalil ur Rehman Qamar and mufti Abdul Qawi should be snubbed and discouraged not to get applauded. At least create the environment of hope at least so we can breathe and be productive like Bangladeshi women.

The writer is a freelance contributor

Empowerment a must for national development

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Speakers of an international conference have stressed the need to empower and education women as women's role in all segments of society was essential for the development of Pakistan. They were addressing two-day international conference "Contemporary Gender Issues: Challenges and Opportunities" organized by Punjab University Department of Gender Studies at Al Raazi Hall here on Monday in connection with the International Women's Day. Sarwar Foundation Vice Chairperson Begum Parveen Sarwar, Justice (r) Nasira Javed Iqbal, PU Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Chairperson Punjab Women Protection Authority Kanez Fatima, Ministry of Human Rights Director General Muhammad Ali Khan, Dean Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences Prof Dr Umbreen Javed, Chairperson Department of Gender Studies Prof Dr Ra'ana Malik, faculty members and students participated in the event.

Addressing the conference, Mrs Parveen Sarwar said that women were progressing in all the fields in Pakistan. She said that the most gold medals in education were grabbed by female students which reflected their potential in the field of education. She said that women gave respect and love to the society. She said that Pakistani men



were also encouraging women for their prosperity. She said that we must give time to the women to adjust in another environment after marriage. She said that through Hunar Gah Centres in Punjab, more than twenty thousand women had been provided training in dress stitching. She said that it was not the story of Pakistan only where we get our rights after difficulties. She said that she and her family faced life threats when they started to struggle for the rights of the Muslims in the United Kingdom. She said that we must provide a safe environment to our women. Prof Dr Saleem Mazhar said that giving respect and honor to the women was a part of our culture. He said that a home could not be a home without a woman. He said that women were coming forward in our society in all fields on merit. Justice (r) Nasira Javed Iqbal said everyday of the year belonged to the women as the

world was incomplete without them. She said that educated and skilled women could polish the whole society. She said that the women in Pakistan had progressed in all the fields. She said that the first woman prime minister of the Muslim world also belonged to Pakistan. She said that if all the girls were educated, Pakistan could rapidly progress in the world. She said that the women would play their role in the development of Pakistan as they did for the establishment of the country.

She said that corruption was No 1 problem of Pakistan. She said that women were an emblem of justice, purity and hope. She said that educated and wise women must be given share in decision making. Mrs Kanez Fatma said that Islam for the first time gave rights to the women and empowered them. She said that those societies progressed that gave respect to the women.

AC fines thousands of rupees for manipulation of multiple petrol pumps

From Our Staff Correspondent

KASUR: Assistant Commissioner Kasur Kaleem Yousaf fined thousands rupees.

As per detail Assistant Commissioner along with Civil Defence team checked the measurements of petrol pumps and safety devices used in emergency in different areas of Tehsil Kasur and fined ten thousand rupees for manipulation of multiple petrol pumps.

He instructed the administration to ensure the supply of petroleum products at a fixed price and not to be manipulated in any way, and to ensure the availability and functionality of safety equipment in order to deal with emergencies.

World Women's Day event held: Regarding the world women's day, an event was organized in the Tehsil Council hall Kasur, in which Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Maham Asif Malik, Chief Executive Officer, Naheed Wasif, leader of Pakistan Tehreek-E-Insaf, Mrs Mazmal Masood Bhatti, Shagufta Sheikh, a large number of students including



officers and women participated. At the event, ADC (F&P) said that the purpose of celebrating international women's day is to inform and rectify women's equal rights and other issues that women are facing. In this regard, we get practical guidance from the life of Islam and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). I strongly believe that no nation can reach the height of greatness unless your women are by your side, the woman is the pillar of civilization and the architect of generations. I am proud that women are playing a great role in all walks of life for the development of the country and nation.



LAHORE: Anjuman Mazareen Punjab (AMP) and Life Awareness for National Development (ANP) stage protest in favour of women's rights outside Lahore Press Club. —Online