

Women lawmakers voice for working women rights

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Members of Sindh Assembly Nusrat Bano, Sehar Abbasi and Tanzila Umi Habiba have emphasized the need to change mindset of the society about working women as they are still not acceptable at higher ranks.

Speaking at an event held in line with World Women Day at Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Parliamentarians said that working women, who had been struggling really hard at both the fronts -- home and workplace-, deserved due respect and equal rights, said KCCI release on Monday. Appreciating M.Zubair Motiwala's suggestion, they also urged women entrepreneurs to set goals and highlight their achievements of the whole year on this particular day.

Executive Director of Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Center Dr. Seemin Jamali, CEO Indus Hospital Dr. Abdul Bari Khan, Deputy General Manager Indus Hospital Dr. Farah Bari, General Secretary of BMG, A.Q. Khalil, President KCCI Shariq Ahmed Vohra, Senior Vice President KCCI Saqib Goodluck, Vice President Shamsul Islam Khan, Chairperson of KCCI's Women Entrepreneurs

Subcommittee Durre Shahwar Nisar, Prof. Dr. Sajida Parveen, former presidents and a large number of women entrepreneurs attended the event.

MPA Nusrat Abbasi was of the opinion that the situation in urban areas was not so bad as compared to rural areas where the women were largely being suppressed all the time. MPA Tanzila Umi Habiba said women need to be made economically strong for women empowerment.

Women rights highlighted on International Day: Women Voices & Leadership Pakistan (WVL-P) and DEWA in collaboration with Global Affair Canada and Social Welfare Department organized a function in connection with the International Women Day in Dir Lower.

The event was organized by Project Coordinator Ms. Tahir Saba Swati who briefed the participants on various laws and acts passed by the government to protect the women rights. She also explained the women rights given to them by Islam and stated that the Holy prophet (S.A.W) said, "Among you the most respectable is the one who respects women and the most disrespectful is the one who disrespect the women."

The above instruction of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) declared the ground of honor and respect for a person in Deen-e-Islam. Our religion, she said gave women a right of honorable life and ignite the light of rights in her life. Before Islam women were mistreated by the society as Arabs used to bury their daughters alive, wives were harshly beaten and sisters were given to others as a compensation for any sin of her family.

Islam abolished all these dark practices and declared the paradise under the feet of mother, guaranteed paradise to a father who brought up her daughters with love, assured heavens to the husband who cares for her wife and made sisters partners in the inheritance.

She said today Muslim woman was facing problems not because of lack of her rights in Islam but due to the male driven society. Islam promised women respect, honor and safety before and more than any other religion.

At the end she also appreciated the Provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Social Welfare Department for taking sufficient steps to socially and economically empower the women.



KARACHI: Women activists hold placards at a rally on the eve of International Women Day.

Punjab Talent Hunt competitions held in Kasur

From Our Staff Correspondent

KASUR: Punjab Talent Hunt competitions at district level were held in Divisional Public School here on Monday under the auspices of information and culture department Punjab.

The competitions were musical instruments, singing, paintings, poetry and story writing, in which male and female students from schools and colleges across the district participated. Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance & Planning Maham Asif Malik was chief guest while a number of teachers and students were also present.

Sunil Asif, Muhammad Saim Riaz and Muhammad Shahid Sohail secured first, second and third positions, respectively, in musical

competitions. Anam Shakil, Faiza Siddiq and Haider Abbas obtained first, second and third positions, respectively in singing competitions.

Similarly, Ali Ahmed, Maham and Tehreem Asif got first, second and third positions, respectively in paintings competitions. In poetry competition, Aqib Ali Mehmood got first position while Amina Shabbir and Muneeb Ahmed secured second and third positions, respectively.

In story writing contest, Syed Ibrarul Hassan, Zaneer Anaem and Noor Fatima Shaukat stood first, second and third, respectively.

First position holders got cash prizes of Rs 10,000, second position holders Rs 7,000 and third position holders obtained Rs 5,000 each. Speaking on the occasion,

Maham Asif Malik said the position holders of district level competitions would take part in divisional and provincial level competitions. She said that Pakistani youth were talented and they could enlighten the name of the country by utilizing their abilities.

Lady drug peddler arrested in Sama Satta: Sama Satta police have arrested an alleged lady drug peddler and recovered hashish from her possession. According to a spokesman for Bahawalpur police, acting on a tip-off, a police team of Sama Satta Police Station took an alleged lady drug peddler into custody.

"The police recovered 2,150 grams hashish from her possession," the spokesman said.

Sama Satta police have registered a case against the accused.

Pathanay Khan gave vigour to Saraiki language with his soulful singing: Surriya

From Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: Legendary folk singer, late Pathanay Khan gave a fresh face and new vigour to Saraiki language as well as culture through his unforgettable rendition of Kafis.

Taking to APP in connection with the singer's 21 death anniversary, living legend Surriya Multanikr said on Monday that Pathaney Khan made 'kalam' of

great poet Khawaja Ghulam Farid popular among all generations through his soulful singing.

"Born as Ghulam Muhammad, Pathanay Khan disseminated message of love and peace by Khawaja Ghulam Farid across the length and breadth of the country. He was voice of South Punjab and had performed first time at the urs of great Saraiki poet in 1955", she said, adding that he shot to fame when he sang his Kafi "Meda Ishq vi toun, meda payar vi toun".

Pathanay Khan was born in 1920 at Tuba Wala, a suburban area of Muzaffargarh. He was named Pathanay Khan when he was three at the advice of his father's pir.

In 1970, when Radio Pakistan Multan station was opened, Pathanay Khan reached the height of his popularity.

During his singing career he performed for Radio Pakistan Multan, Lahore and PTV. He was awarded Pride of Performance in 1979.

The singer died on March 9,

Singapore will offer COVID-19 vaccinations later this month to selected cargo drivers from Malaysia

SINGAPORE: Singapore will offer COVID-19 vaccinations later this month to selected cargo drivers and accompanying personnel who enter the country from Malaysia on a regular basis.

Announcing this on Monday Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) said: "Vaccination will provide an additional layer of protection against COVID-19, ensuring that these personnel can continue to deliver essential goods to Singapore safely." Those who are eligible for the vaccination will be notified via a personalised SMS from the Ministry of Trade and Industry and will be contacted subsequently for an appointment to undergo vaccination at designated sites in Singapore. Those who are not vaccinated may continue to enter Singapore, subject to infection control measures such as on-arrival testing and safe management measures, said MOH. Cargo drivers entering Singapore from Malaysia via the Tuas and Woodlands checkpoints are currently required to undergo COVID-19 antigen rapid testing, which can return results within half an hour. The drivers will be allowed to enter Singapore if their results are negative. MOH said



provisions have been made to vaccinate everyone in Singapore. "All Singaporeans and long-term residents in Singapore will have the chance to be vaccinated," said MOH, adding that it will continue to "systematically extend" the vaccination to other segments of the population from April. Singapore began its COVID-19 vaccination exercise on Dec 30, with healthcare workers at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases the first to get the shots. This was progressively rolled out to other groups such as workers in the aviation and maritime sectors, as well as elderly residents. —CNA

2 protesters killed in Myanmar; shops and factories closed as workers go on strike

YANGON: Two protesters were shot dead in Myanmar on Monday as demonstrators across the country sought to paralyse the economy with strike action following a weekend of night raids and arrests. Shops, factories and banks were closed in the main city of Yangon.

Photos posted on Facebook showed the bodies of two men lying on the street in the northern town of Myitkyina. Witnesses said they were taking part in a protest when police fired stun grenades and tear gas. Several people were then hit by gunfire from buildings nearby. One witness, who said he helped move the bodies, told Reuters two people were shot in the head and died on the spot. Three people were injured.

"How inhumane to kill unarmed civilians," said the witness, a 20-year-old man. "We must have our right to protest peacefully." It was not immediately clear who fired on the protesters although both police and the military were at the protest, the witnesses said.

Police and military have killed more than 50 people to quell daily demonstrations and strikes against the Feb 1 coup, according to the United Nations last week. Crowds demonstrating against the coup gathered in Yangon as well as the second-biggest city, Mandalay and several other towns, according to videos posted on Facebook.

Protesters in Dawei, a coastal town in the south, were protected by the Karen National Union, an ethnic armed group engaged in a long-running war with the military. Protest-



ers march with makeshift shields during a demonstration in Mandalay on Mar 8, 2021. Protesters waved flags fashioned from htmain (women's sarongs) in some places or hung them up on lines across the street to mark International Women's Day while denouncing the junta. Walking beneath women's sarongs is traditionally considered bad luck for men and tends to slow down police and soldiers. Protesters gather by a collection of longyi, a traditional clothing widely worn in Myanmar. State media said security forces were keeping a presence at hospitals and universities as part of efforts to enforce the law.

At least nine unions covering sectors including construction, agriculture and manufacturing have called on "all Myanmar people" to stop work to reverse the coup and restore Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government. Allowing business and economic activity to continue would help the military "as they re-

press the energy of the Myanmar people", the unions said in a statement.

"The time to take action in defence of our democracy is now." Protesters display placards and flash a three-fingered sign of resistance during a demonstration

'FIGHT THAT FEAR': Unions are seeking to extend the impact of an ongoing "Civil Disobedience Movement" - a campaign urging civil servants to boycott working under military rule - which has already hit state machinery hard. The impact has been felt at every level of the national infrastructure, with hospital disruptions, empty ministry offices, and banks unable to operate. The junta has warned that civil servants "will be fired" with immediate effect Monday if they continue to strike. Only a few small tea-shops were open in Yangon, witnesses said. Major shopping centres were closed and there was no work going on at factories. —AP

Thousands of women join Indian farmers' protests against new laws

NEW DELHI: Thousands of women joined protests by farmers on the outskirts of Delhi on Monday to mark International Women's Day, demanding the scrapping of new laws that open up agriculture produce markets to private buyers.

Since December, many farmers accompanied by their families have camped at three sites on the outskirts of the Indian capital to oppose the biggest farm reforms in decades, which they say hurt them.

Wearing bright yellow scarves representing the colour of mustard fields,

the women took centre stage at one key site, chanting slogans, holding small marches, and making speeches through loudspeakers to target the laws. "This is an important day as it represents women's strength," said Veena, a 37-year-old from a farming family, who gave only one name in order to protect her identity. "I believe if us women are united, then we can achieve our target much quicker," added Veena, who travelled from the northern state of Punjab to the sprawling Tikri protest spot. More

than 20,000 women gathered at the site near Delhi's border with the state of Haryana, police and event organisers said. "This is a day that will be managed and controlled by women, the speakers will be women, there will be a lot of feminist perspectives brought in, and discussions on what these laws mean for women farmers," said farm activist Kavitha Kuruganti. "It is one more occasion to showcase and highlight the contribution of women farmers both in agriculture in India as well as to this movement." India says

the reforms will bring private investment into a vast and antiquated farm sector, improve supply chains and cut colossal

Correction of Name

It is hereby informed that my educational documents have my incomplete name mentioned Zillay Mariam D/O Munir Ahmad, whereas, my correct name for educational documents is Zillay Mariam Munir D/O Munir Ahmad Qureshi. Kindly correct it on all my documents.

Serena offers support to friend Meghan after Oprah interview

LONDON: Serena Williams said she understood the "pain and cruelty" suffered by Meghan, the wife of Prince Harry, after she accused Britain's royal family of racism.

Meghan, in an interview with Oprah Winfrey aired on CBS late on Sunday, said the royal family had concerns about how dark their son's skin might be. The 39-year-old, whose mother is Black and father is white, also said she was pushed to the brink of suicide after marrying into royalty in 2018.

Williams, a Black woman who has won 23 Grand Slam titles, said her "friend" Meghan had taught her "what it means to be truly noble". "We must recognise our obligation to decry malicious, unfounded gossip and tabloid journalism. "The mental health consequences of sys-



temic oppression and victimisation are devastating, isolating, and all too often lethal."

Meghan and Harry said in the interview their second child, who is

due this summer, would be a girl. "I want Meghan's daughter, my daughter, and your daughter to live in a society that is driven by respect," Williams added. —Reuters

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