

More budget for education demanded

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Legislatures Core Group on Education and Community Champions demanded more budgets for education.

It was demanded in post budget meeting between community education champions and Punjab Legislatures Core Group members organized by AwazCDS-Pakistan here on Monday.

The meeting was attended by 14 community education champions on girls right to quality secondary education representing Southern districts of Punjab as well as 32 members of Punjab Assembly. The community education champions shared their disappointments regarding lack of girls schools in Southern districts of Punjab. The girls feel insecure and face harassments while attending schools situated at large distances.

No appropriate transportation facilities are available in remote districts like Rajanpur, DG Khan, Layyah, Bhakkar, Jhang, Mianwali, Lodhran, Bahawal Nagar, Vehari, Khanewal, Bahawalpur, Multan and Muzaffargarh. The girls education champions highlighted that most of the existing girls schools lack even basic facilities of drinking water, toilets and electricity. Girls of poor families have not received Zewar-e-Taaleem stipend @1000 per month for the last three years and many have schools. Most of them forced to get married by their parents because of poverty. Government schools are still charging

Rs20 as Farogh-e-Taleem Fund from each student and most the parents of these districts are unable to pay this amount. Though text books are being provided by the Government of Punjab yet the parents have invested on stationary, copies, uniform and shoes etc.

Addressing the event, Zia ur Rehman, Chief Executive of AwazCDS-Pakistan said that 81,000 vacancies of teachers in schools of Punjab are vacant and the current Budget 2021-22 have no allocations for the recruitment of new teachers and if this gap is not filled there is a great fear that more children especially girls will be out of schools soon. He said that 5.3 million girls are already out of schools in Punjab whereas 32% left the schools during COVID 19 pandemic, he added.

He stressed upon the legislatures to use their influence in the enactment of Punjab Free & Compulsory Education Act 2014 with immediate effect. He also demanded the creation South Punjab Girls Education Support Fund to take affirmative measures for girls right to quality secondary education in the aforementioned remote districts. While addressing the participants Qaiser Rashid, Additional Secretary Planning & Budget for School Education Department, Government of Punjab shared that government has released Rs14 billion to deliver to 40,00,00 girls, who were attending schools for the last three years. Cabinet has approved this in the last meeting and the amount shall be delivered through Punjab Social Protection Authority.



LAHORE: Imran Ameen, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ravi Urban Development Authority addresses at the Meet the Press Programme organised by Lahore Press Club. In his address he shares details of RUDA with the audience.

'Work on Ravi City Project site to be started within two months'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The work on the site of Ravi City Project would be started within two months. Three water treatment plants have also been approved by the WASA and the project would be completed before the fixed time limit.

This was stated by Imran Ameen, CEO Ravi Urban Development Authority at a 'Meet the Press Programme' organised by Lahore Press Club here on Monday.

Imran Ameen revealed that the feasibility of the project was made in the past regime, but it was not implemented. But we have made Ravi Act, marked its boundaries and then we announced an auction for the development works. He said we are working very fast on this project and the people will see its outcome within three years, he added.

26-player Pak women squad announced for West Indies tour

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The national women's selection committee on Monday announced a 26-player squad from which the national and 'A' teams will be selected for white-ball matches on the tour of the West Indies.

Javeria Khan, who has an experience of 208 international matches and is the leading run-getter for Pakistan in ODIs, will lead the national side. Rameen Shamim, who has played two ODIs and four T20Is, with the experience of 98 internationals, will lead the 'A' side in the three T20s.

Pakistan squad for the tour: Javeria Khan (captain, national team), Rameen Shamim (One-Day captain, 'A' team), Sidra Nawaz (T20 captain, A team), Aliya Riaz, Aiman Anwar, Anam Amin, Ayesha Naseem, Ayesha Zafar, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Iram Javed, Jaweria Rauf, Kainat Imtiaz, Kaynat Hafeez, Maham Tariq, Muneeba Ali Siddiqui (wk), Nahida Khan, Najhi Alvi (wk), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Saba Nazir, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, and Syeda Aroob Shah The Pakistan national women's team will play West Indies in three T20Is and five ODIs and the 'A' side will take on their counterparts in three one-day matches and three T20s. All 26 players will be available for selection for 14 matches. Urooj Mumtaz, the chairperson of national women's selection committee, said her.

Rejected elements cannot deceive people: Buzdar

Says agitational politics detrimental to country

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has said meetings of the PDM are an exercise in futility as agitational politics is detrimental to the country.

In a statement, the CM regretted that the opposition has no regard for the country. This cabal even politicised the corona issue and is trying to deceive the people when the economy is growing, he added.

Any sort of anarchistic politics is enmity with the country as Pakistan cannot move forward through rallies, the CM maintained. The PDM is trying to take revenge for their failure but the nation is fully aware of charlatans and they will not be misled by them, the CM concluded.

Directs cleanliness of nullahs before monsoon

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has directed to complete the cleanliness of nullahs before monsoon adding that surrounding encroachments should also be removed and a report be submitted to his office as well. In a statement, the CM has

announced to conduct a third-party audit and made it clear that no negligence will be tolerated in this regard.

CM condoles death of Usman Khan Kakar

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has expressed a deep sense of sorrow over the death of former Senator Usman Khan Kakar.

In a statement, the CM extended sympathies to the heirs and prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace.

Relations with allies are stronger than before: CM

MPAs from Gujrat including Chaudhry Liaqat Ali, Saleem Sarwar Jora, Mian Muhammad Akhtar Hayat and Muhammad Arshad Chaudhry called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office on Monday and extended felicitations to him for presenting a public-friendly budget.

The provincial budget is an important document for ensuring composite development at the grassroots and the district development package will start in a new era

of development, they added.

The CM declared anarchistic politics cannot prevail in the country as such elements are following the enemy's agenda. The opposition is frustrated and it cannot fool the people, he said and emphasised that Pakistan has moved forward toward development under PM Imran Khan. He said the PML (Q) is an ally and relations with the allies are stronger than before.

There is the best relationship with the allied party and the government is taking it along in the decision-making process, he emphasised.

Meanwhile, the government is working hard for the solution of public problems and my doors are open to all. There was a one-man show in the past but I take everybody along and decisions are made with mutual consultation, the CM concluded.

MPAs call on CM Punjab

MPAs Gulraiz Afzal, Muhammad Tariq Tarar and PTI leader Nadeem Afzal Chan called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office on Monday to discuss matters of mutual interests.



LAHORE: A gypsy family travels to their destination on the donkey cart. —Online

Haniya secures 3rd position in Asian Tennis Championship



LAHORE: Haniya Minhas, the young tennis prodigy, participated in the Asian Tennis Championship in Tajikistan. She made Pakistan proud by securing third position at the prestigious tournament. Haniya was supported in her journey by Descon and BARD Foundation as she carried Pakistan's flag.

Before participating in her first international tournament, Haniya had already made history by winning 74 titles by the age of 10. In Tajikistan, she secured a bronze medal in the tournament and is considered to be the highest ranked tennis player from Pakistan in the Asian Tennis Rankings in the Under 14 years age group for both boys and girls. —PR

Makani's KeepTruckin raises \$190m

LAHORE: KeepTruckin, the leader in fleet management technology, announced that it has raised \$190 million in new funding from G2 Venture Partners, Index Ventures, Greenoaks, IVP, Scale Venture Partners, funds managed by BlackRock, and several other leading investors.

The round values KeepTruckin at over \$2 billion. The new capital will support KeepTruckin's strategic priorities by allowing it to continue building innovative AI-powered products, recruiting top-tier talent, and scaling rapidly to meet the needs of businesses that power the physical economy. Founded by the Pakistani-American Shoab Makani, KeepTruckin's 400,000-strong network of connected vehicles is one of the largest in North America. —PR

— Electoral reforms

Electoral reforms, EVMs to ensure transparency, voting-right to expats

Dr Saeed Ahmad Ali

For the last over four decades, the conduct of fair, free and impartial parliamentary elections has been a big challenge in Pakistan.

It has never happened since 1980 that the losing political parties and individuals did not level charges of election manipulation and rigging against the winning parties and individual contestants.

In some elections, serious conflicts started even from the first day of formation of a new government, over alleged election rigging. Therefore, the newly formed governments had to divert their energies towards protecting themselves from the opposition attacks, instead of focusing on public service and development programmes.

This phenomenon is not peculiar to Pakistan; in most developing countries, the governments had to face similar situations i.e. allegations of election rigging and stealing of mandate of the opponent parties soon after the conduct of the general elections. Even in some developed countries, such allegations keep surfacing from time to time, and the latest examples in that regard could be presented of the last two elections in the USA.

The departments and authorities responsible for the conduct of elections in all countries, where parliamentary form of the government is in place, have always been in search of mechanisms and arrangements through which they could conduct elections acceptable to even the losing parties.

The use of technology in this regard has proved a great help during the past years. The electronic voting machines (EVMs) and the internet-voting (i-voting) are among the top technology applications, which have provided solution to the modern-day election complications and helped guard against the election rigging allegations in vari-

ous countries of the world.

Various digital indicators and surveys show that the number of internet users across the globe has more than tripled during a decade, from one billion in 2005 to an estimated 3.2 billion at the end of 2015. And similarly, onward, in January 2021, there were 4.66 billion active internet users globally which is 59.5 percent of the total global population. Of the total 4.32 billion, around 92.6 percent population has accessed the internet service through mobile-phones.

Talking to APP noted IT expert Muhammad Zahid said that the digital revolution has brought quick private benefits, greater convenience, easier communication and information, free digital products, and new forms of excitement and leisure.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, especially Prime Minister Imran Khan, has decided to benefit from the modern technology to resolve the decades old issue of transparency of elections. The prime minister, as he mentions in his public speeches time and again, is the person who had introduced the neutral umpires when he was leading the Pakistan cricket team.

Through the use of neutral umpires, the issue of biased decisions by umpires and consequent controversies was resolved once and for all. And now, through the use of technology, the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and i-voting for overseas Pakistanis he has planned to resolve the issue of Election Day rigging on permanent basis.

Prime Minister Khan values overseas Pakistanis a lot and appreciates their contribution to the national exchequer in the form of valuable foreign exchange from core of his heart. According to the Bureau of Statistics document, over nine million overseas Pakistanis are working in different countries across the globe. They are playing a great role in keeping the

country's economy afloat through continuous remittances. Their remittances had witnessed a record high growth especially in the last over one year. Prime Minister Imran Khan has recently launched two digital incentives for Pakistani expatriates, including Roshan Apni Car (car financing) and Roshan Samaji Khidmat (charity).

Keeping in view their services for the country, the prime minister has also decided to give the expatriates the right to vote in Pakistan by bringing about electoral reforms in the country. While chairing a meeting on the use of EVMs, he recently directed the authorities concerned to complete the electoral reforms process. He said the only option to ensure transparency in the election process was the use of EVMs and the overseas Pakistanis must be made part of polling process through i-voting, which was their undeniable right.

Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) official sources told APP that EVMs were being used in many developed countries currently, which were helpful in ensuring transparency and fast compilation of election results.

These machines are being used in neighboring country India, Australia, Switzerland, Brazil, Belgium, France, Germany, Norway, Netherlands, Namibia United Kingdom (UK), Estonia, Italy, Peru, Venezuela and the Philippines.

Meanwhile Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, during a media briefing, recently said that the electronic voting machines (EVMs) were being developed in the country, adding that these machines would also be used in elections of the press clubs, Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) and the Bar associations.

The writer is working with Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

Women police officers a very important part of Punjab Police: IGP

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Punjab Inam Ghani said that women police officers are a very important part of Punjab Police whose excellent professional training and posting in important posts as well as full encouragement is among the top priorities of the department.

He further announced to increase the quota of women officers from 15% to 30% in the forthcoming recruitment and said that more and more women officers and men should become part of the police force and not only make progress in their professional careers but also excel in bringing a good name for the police department too.

He further said that the police department is a very good job for women officers so more and more daughters and sisters should be part of the police force. He further said that all the officers and personnel of the police force performing their duties in the field and offices should consider themselves as "servants of the people" only then they can gain public acceptance. He further said that the officers who have completed the training should go to the field and treat the public with the same compassionate attitude towards them as we do with parents, siblings

and dear relatives in our homes so that the overall identity of the police force is enhanced and collective image of police force may be changed in order to win the hearts of the citizens.

He further said that all available resources have been utilized to provide modern vocational training to the female officers enrolled in the 12th Lady Recruit Course and I hope that the young police officers who are being passed out today will come on field duty and deliver public service.

He expressed these views while addressing the participants of the passing out parade of the 12th Lady Recruit Course at Police Training College, Chong, Lahore on Monday.

In the 12th Lady Recruit Course, 390 women personnel from different ranges and districts of the province completed the training and passed out, including 11 Masters, 144 Graduates and 204 Intermediate Degree Holder Officers.

Presenting 'Sipas Nama' Commandant Police Training College, Chong, Lahore, Ahmad Jamal-ur-Rehman said that apart from imparting legal and policing training to women officers during the training, special lectures have been organized for character building and their moral training and we fully hope

that lady police officers will be able to play their outstanding role in changing the police station culture and improving law and order by making the best use of the acquired training and mental and intellectual abilities.

He added that the 39-week training includes law and general policing as well as martial arts. Apart from martial arts, weapon handling, physical training, special focus has also been given to other related fields.

IG Punjab also presented certificates of appreciation and cash prizes to the female officers who excelled in various fields during the training. Sahiwal's Lady Constable Sidrah Parveen was awarded two separate prizes for all round excellence and outstanding performance in law and academia. Lady Constable Sandal of Faisalabad for best performance in PT Parade, Lady Constable Zainab Anwar of Okara for best performance in firing and Kiran Shehzad of Sahiwal for all round number second were given certificates of appreciation and cash prizes. At the end of the ceremony Commandant Police Training College Chong Lahore Ahmad Jamal-ur-Rehman presented souvenirs to IG Punjab.

After the passing out parade, IG