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PSQCA confirms packaged milk adulterated

Court told mixing of melamine in milk allowed

Our correspondent

LAHORE: The chairman of the Pakistan Standard Quality and Control Authority (PSQCA) Wednesday submitted before the Lahore High Court that the authority's finding had confirmed the reports on mixture of dangerous substances like melamine, detergents and chemicals in the packaged milk.

The PSQCA chairman was submitting his reply to Justice Mian Saqib Nisar who expressed grave concerns over the dangerous state of affairs among the authorities concerned for maintaining quality food in the country, which was causing diseases and deaths among the citizens. The judge observed that the court would not allow the heinous practice. The PSQCA chairman informed the court that a meet-

ing of the Technical Committee of Food and Milk Products had already been convened for December 15 to discuss the reports on adulteration of dangerous substances in packaged milk.

The petitioner, Barrister Zafarullah Khan, informed the court that amazingly the Pakistan Standard Specifications for Milk, 2009, had allowed mixing of 5mg melamine in one kg milk for adults' consumption and 1mg in one kg milk for children. He said the PSQCA had not given a single reason why the dangerous substance like melamine, which was a kind of plastic, was allowed to be added in milk since it was proved to have been a major cause of renal failure and other deadly diseases. He said the main reason melamine was allowed to be mixed in milk was because the major chunk of nat-

ural protein was extracted from the milk before packaging and melamine was added to artificially compensate the loss of protein and thinness of milk. He cited example of China where three persons found guilty of adding melamine in milk were hanged to death.

At this, the PSQCA chairman said the Technical Committee would also take notice of reported permission to add melamine in milk. The judge ordered the PSQCA chairman to appear in court on December 22 with a detailed report on the outcome of the meeting.

The judge also asked Barrister Sidra, the amicus curiae, to collect milk samples sent for testing from a laboratory in London, for which Barrister Syed Ali Zafar had promised to donate Rs10,000.