

### **'FBR chief should be from Customs or IRS'**

ISLAMABAD: One of the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) committees on restructuring of the Board has recommended that the FBR chairman should be from Pakistan Customs or Inland Revenue Service (IRS).

The Islamabad-based consultative committee has finalized its recommendations on restructuring of the FBR. It has recommended that the head of the FBR should be from IRS or Customs Service.

The Islamabad-based consultative committee has also recommended that the post of the chief commissioner should not be abolished as it would result in extreme pressure on the working of the commissioners. Moreover, the chief commissioners are primarily responsible for coordination with the FBR on daily basis on revenue collection and day-to-day affairs, etc.

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had directed three consultative committees to submit their recommendations on restructuring of the Board to the FBR Steering Committee on Reforms.

The Steering Committee on Restructuring of the FBR is headed by FBR Chairman Shabbar Zaidi. Members of the steering committee are: Nausheen Javed Amjad, FBR Member Admin; Muhammad Javed Ghani, FBR Member Customs Policy; Seema Shakil, FBR Member IR (Operations); Dr Jawwad Uwais Agha, FBR Member Customs (Operations); Dr Hamid Ateeq Sarwar, FBR Member IR-Policy; and Talha Aziz Khan, chief FBR chairman office.

The FBR's sub-committees on reorganization, human resource, field formations and automation would submit their proposals to the FBR Steering Committee for consideration.

On November 8, the FBR had constituted consultative committees. Karachi-based consultative committee is headed by Chief Commissioner Large Taxpayers Unit (LTU) while Lahore-based committee and Rawalpindi-Islamabad-based committees are headed by Director General Intelligence and Investigation Inland Revenue.

Earlier, the Prime Minister's letter of October 3, 2019 contained following major reforms in FBR and timelines (put on hold): Establishment of Pakistan Revenue Authority (timeline June 30, 2020); Re-organization and re-articulation of FBR headquarters (Nov 30, 2019); administrative and functional restructuring of LTUs/RTOs (December 31, 2019); collection of sales tax on services by the FBR (October 30, 2019); enhancement of collection charges of FBR for infrastructure development, automation and HRD (timeline June 30, 2020); nationwide tax assessment and documentation drive, nation-wise survey of immovable properties, proposal for development of Alternate Border Economy (timeline October 31, 2019) and process for automation of the FBR (timeline November 30, 2019).