



**National Assembly of Pakistan**

# **THE GAZETTE**



**October 2013**



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## OCTOBER 2013

### ACTIVITIES OF SPEAKER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AT 129<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) IN GENEVA

#### Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Leads NA Delegation to 129th Assembly of IPU held at Geneva, Switzerland

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly led Parliamentary Delegation in 129th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held from 7-9 October 2013 at Geneva, Switzerland. The delegation proceeded to Geneva on 3rd October.

The delegation comprised MNAs; Syed Naveed Qamar, Mr. Daniyal Aziz, Senator Raza Rabbani, Syed Muhammad Ashiq Hussain Shah and Mr. Karamat Hussain Niazi, Secretary, National

children, in particular, unaccompanied migrant children, and in preventing their exploitation in situations of war and conflict.”

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy.

#### Speakers of India and Pakistan vow to give Peace a Chance in the Region

The Speakers of India and Pakistan agreed to jointly work for the promotion of improved relations between the two South Asian neighbours despite all hurdles. The meeting took place in Geneva on the sidelines of the 129th Inter Parliamentary Union



Pakistan Parliamentary Delegation led by Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly attending 129<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland

Assembly. The delegation participated in the Assembly of the IPU and its related meetings. The delegation met their counterparts on sidelines of the Assembly from 159 countries and exchange views and experiences.

The IPU Assembly conversed upon “the contributions of Parliaments for making nuclear-weapon free world, efforts towards risk resilient development taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints, besides role of Parliament in protecting the rights of

Assembly held on 7-9 October 2013.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq stressed on keeping all available channels open to avoid escalation of mistrust and bitterness on both sides of the divide. Parliaments, as the real voices of the people, were better placed to engage and seek common solutions to common problems. Speaker Ayaz Sadiq especially referred to the previous visit of the Indian Speaker Kumar to Pakistan in February 2012. Parliamentary exchange, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said, had created a lot of goodwill and opened new vistas





Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq with his Indian Counterpart, Lok Sabha Speaker, Meira Kumar at Geneva on the sidelines of the 129th Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly

of cooperation between the two neighbouring states. "That was the first visit by any Indian Speaker. Let us not make it the last," Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said.

Speaker Meira Kumar said she still held nostalgic memories of her visit to Pakistan, which was frequently quoted in the Indian media. She regretted that whenever moves were made for a mutually respecting neighborhood, the efforts were thwarted by isolated acts. Speaker Kumar especially raised the issue of terrorism in the region, which was affecting all nations. She called for joint efforts to eradicate the menace. She also called for respecting the sanctity of the Line of Control.

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq shared her views and said that Pakistan was the worst victim of terrorism as it had sacrificed the lives of more than 60,000 innocent men, women and children in gruesome acts of terror. On LOC, Speaker Ayaz reminded his Indian counterpart that the "individual acts must not spoil the collective efforts". He also referred to the immense pool of economic opportunities of the two countries and said there was no point in doing business with the world and ignoring markets next door. "In India, Pakistan has a huge market and in Pakistan, you have a sizeable number. Let us not let it go waste and jointly work for a mutually prosperous future for our generations," said Speaker Ayaz Sadiq.

Speaker Meira Kumar welcomed the suggestions and reiterated her invitation to Speaker Ayaz Sadiq

to visit India. Speaker Sadiq accepted the invitation and hoped that his presence in India would help bringing the relationship to another level.

### **PAECO gets Observer Status in IPU, becomes First Regional Forum to get such Status in IPU**

Parliamentary Assembly of ECO Member States (PAECO) has been granted observer status in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). This decision was taken in the 129th General Assembly of the IPU being held in Geneva, Switzerland on 7-9 October 2013.

The motion in this regard was moved by the Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq which was supported by Iran, Turkey and other Member states of ECO. This is being termed as a major achievement of the Speaker National Assembly led Pakistan Parliamentary Delegation since PAECO becomes the 1st Regional Forum to have presence in the International Parliamentary Association. Currently, Pakistan holds the chairpersonship of PAECO and hosts its Secretariat.

### **Pakistan's Democratic Leadership committed to peace in the Region; Speaker Ayaz Sadiq tells World Leadership**

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reiterated the firm commitment of the country's democratic leadership to peace and development in the region, as well as in the Islamic world. He made these remarks in his bilateral meetings with the Speakers of Switzerland, Afghanistan, Algeria and Morocco on the sidelines of the 129th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

In a packed schedule of back-to-back meetings, Speaker Sadiq approached the global parliamentary community with a serious agenda as Pakistan intends to pitch its candidate Shazia Rafi for the soon-to-be vacated office of the Secretary General of the IPU. Shazia, an internationally acclaimed parliamentary expert, will be the first woman, non-European and a Muslim Secretary General, if chosen for the coveted slot.



**Mr. Filippo Lombardi, the President of the Council of States of Switzerland** warmly welcomed Speaker Ayaz Sadiq to Switzerland and appreciated the swift evolution of democratic traditions in Pakistan. Speaker Sadiq informed him



Mr. Filippo Lombardi, President Council of States, Switzerland meeting Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Geneva on occasion of 129<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly

about the first peaceful transition of power from one civilian government to the other. Speaker Sadiq stressed on sharing experiences between the two sides, citing the fact that Swiss federalism was a role-model for the world. Swiss Speaker offered technical assistance in studying Swiss model and accepted Speaker Sadiq's invitation to visit Pakistan.

While meeting **Mr. Abdel Qader Ben Saleh, the President of the Majlis-e-Ummah of Algeria**, Speaker Sadiq recalled that Pakistan was amongst the first countries to recognize Algerian independence in 1958. The Algerian President of the Parliament reciprocated by noting that the Algerians could never forget the support they received from Pakistan in the Algeria's war of independence. Both sides stressed on further enhancing the already existing warm and cordial relations between the two countries. President Saleh assured his Pakistani counterpart to favorably consider the candidature of Ms. Rafi.

During the IPU 129<sup>th</sup> Assembly Mr. Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly, in his meeting with **Haji Ibraheemi, the Speaker of the Wolisi Jirga of Afghanistan**, stressed that Pakistan was committed to an Afghan-lead, Afghan-owned and Afghan-based peace process in the neighboring country. He noted that peace in Pakistan was interlinked with peace in Afghanistan and vice-versa. He therefore reminded his Afghan counterpart that the two sides needed to engage in mutual trust and friendship as allegations and counter-allegations would not serve anyone's purpose. He praised the recent high level contacts from the two sides and called for further increasing of people-to-people and parliament to parliament contacts.

The **Moroccan Speaker Karim Ghalab** and the **Albanian Speaker Jozophina Topali** also met Speaker Sadiq and congratulated him on his election as the new Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly.

## Calls on

### Chinese Delegation Visits Speaker National Assembly

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that enhanced people-to-people and parliamentary contacts would further solidify the existing warm relations between Pakistan and China.

He was talking to a delegation of Chinese

People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) led by its Vice Chairman Wang Zhengwei in Islamabad on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

The Speaker said that Pakistan and China were not only neighbours but time-tested and all-weather friends. He said that Pakistan strongly desire to further consolidate and deepen its deep-rooted, all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation for mutual benefit of both the nations.





Chinese People Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Vice Chairman Wang Zhengwei called on Speaker NA, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House.

He expressed his optimism that the proposed economic corridor between Pakistan and China would generate economic activity for mutual benefit of both the countries and the region.

The Speaker informed his Chinese colleagues that Chinese solar power generation system was being installed in Pakistani Parliament which would illustrate the strong bonds between two countries. He informed the dignitaries that Pak-China Friendship Group in National Assembly had already been constituted and be reciprocated by Chinese side.

Wang Zhengwei said that Chinese government always regards Pakistan its closest friend and wants to further deepen China-Pakistan friendship. He expressed his gratitude for Pakistan's longstanding firm support on issues that concern China's core interests. He conveyed his government's desire to further intensify economic and defence cooperation with Pakistan apart from parliamentary cooperation.

### **Cuban Ambassador calls on NA Speaker**

Ambassador of Cuba H.E. Jesus Zenen Buergo Concepcion called on Speaker National Assembly, in Parliament House on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

While talking to the Cuban Ambassador, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan greatly values its cordial relations with Cuba which is an important state of South American Continent. He said that the decades old warm relations between the two



Mr. Jesus Zenen Buergo Concepcion, Ambassador of Cuba, Called on Speaker NA, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House

countries need to be taken up to new heights through economic and parliamentary cooperation.

He appreciated Cuban support in health and education sectors, however, stressed for exploring other avenues of cooperation between the two countries. The Speaker acknowledged Cuban scholarship program for Pakistani medical students. He also thanked for the Cuban medical assistance in the aftermath of devastation caused by natural calamities in Pakistan.

The Cuban Ambassador said that his country also attaches immense values to its relations with Pakistan and wants to further enhance existing ties through enhancing people-to-people contact and economic cooperation between both the countries. He also expressed his country's desire to utilize huge economic and human resource potential in Pakistan. He said that his country strongly desires to enhance parliamentary relations between both the countries; therefore, friendship group in Cuban National Assembly has been established. He said that Cuban investor were keen to invest in energy, trade, agriculture and fishery sectors to take advantage of pro-investment policies in Pakistan.

### **Delegation of Defense Committee of the House of Commons, UK, calls on Speaker National Assembly**

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that government was determined to exterminate militancy and extremism from the country indigenously however; support of international community would supplement its



efforts. He said that government would not allow anyone to subvert its determination. He was talking to a delegation of Defense Committee of the House of Commons, UK led by Mr. James Arbuthnot, MP



Group photo of UK Defence Committee delegation from House of Commons with Speaker NA, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on October, 30 2013

which called on Speaker National Assembly in Parliament house, on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

The Speaker said that the present democratic dispensation is committed to peace and development in the country and has taken onboard all the political forces on issues confronting the nation. He said that all the political parties were on the same page on the issues of national importance and had mandated it to hold dialogue with deviant elements of the society to curb extremism and terrorism in the country. He said that Pakistan has suffered extensive economic loss, disruption of civic life in the country apart from losing 65000 precious lives in recent years due to this menace. He said it was dismal to note that law enforcers, places of worship, women, children, hospitals and educational institutions have been targeted. Speaking about the drone attacks in tribal belt of Pakistan, the Speaker said that the territorial integrity of the Pakistan should be respected and such initiatives should be subject to international and humanitarian law.

Talking about the Pak-UK relations, the Speaker said that Pakistan attaches importance to its deep rooted bilateral relations with UK which represents shared values and perceptions on regional and international issues. He said that

interaction between parliamentarians of both the countries would be productive in terms of critical situation in the region and on strategic issues of common interest. He thanked the government and people of UK for extending valuable help to the people of Pakistan in the aftermath of the devastation caused by natural calamities. The Speaker said that Pakistan continues to believe and strive for the peaceful settlement of outstanding issues with India including the Kashmir issue. He asked for British support for resolution of Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions. Mr. James Arbuthnot, MP, thanked the Speaker of his words and said that their visit to Pakistan has given them an opportunity to understand the multitude of issues in the way that Pakistan is dealing with. He said that UK and other members of the international community acknowledge Pakistan's sacrifice in war against extremism and militancy. He said that UK considers Pakistan an important country in the region and wants a stable and prosperous nation which was in the larger interest of world and the region. He agreed for enhancing frequent interaction between parliamentarians of both the countries to see Pakistan's perspective in a better way.

### **Delegation of EU Parliament calls on Speaker National Assembly**

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has asked European Union to support democratic Pakistan to get out of the problems



Delegation of European Union Parliament meeting with Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq



presently confronting the present political dispensation in the country. He said that Pakistan believes in trade not aid. The Speaker was talking to Micheal Ghalar, Member of the EU Parliament in Parliament House, on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

The Speaker said that Pakistan values assistance by EU in terms parliamentary support, socio-economic and infrastructure development in Pakistan. He said that economic activity in the country has been badly disrupted by the militancy/extremism and natural calamities in yester years. He said that government of Pakistan strongly believes in trade not aid, therefore, EU should grant trade preferences and market access to Pakistani products. He said that revival of economy through pro-investment policies and enhancing trade with foreign countries was the top most priority of the government.

The Speaker also appreciated the Parliamentary assistance program funded by European Parliament. He suggested that the program should focus on enhancing capacity of the Parliamentarians and parliamentary support staff through Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services. He informed the EU MP that a steering committee has been formed in National Assembly comprising Members of Senate and National Assembly to access needs and regularly monitor the activities in this regard. He thanked visiting MP for his support to Pakistan in EU Parliament.

Mr. Micheal Ghalar, MP appreciated the remarks of the Speaker and said that EU considers

Pakistan one of its close friend and a trading partner. He assured that EU would extend its all-out support for the revival of economy, in addressing problems confronting Pakistan besides grant of trade preferences. He said that EU would expand the scope of its assistance plan and assist Pakistan in diverse fields. He agreed that in future EU would carry out need assessment and extend support through PIPS for capacity building of parliamentarians and support staff.

### **Delegation of NMC Lahore calls on Speaker NA**

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly has urged upon the Civil Servants that elimination of corruption, favoritism, nepotism and provision of clean administration are the top priority of the government. He was talking to a group of participants and faculty members of the National Management College Lahore (NMC), who called on him at the Parliament House on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The Speaker said the government is giving due weightage to merit and competency and in this regard has revamped the recruitment in civil services so that only competent people come to the top. He advised the participants that compliance of the Constitution and decline the irregularities are the only way forward for development, prosperity and integrity of the country. "We are determined to strengthening democratic values and institutions" he added.

## **IMPORTANT EVENTS**

### **ACTIVITIES AT WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS**

#### **Meeting with Paiman Alumni Trust (PAT) and Institute of Inclusive Security (IIS)**

Members of Women Parliamentary Caucus held a meeting on October 08 2013 at WPC Islamabad with delegation from Paiman Alumni Trust and Institute of Inclusive Security (Washington DC) which was chaired by Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Secretary WPC. The secretary briefed the delegation about the working and achievements of

WPC, while Mr. Mirsad Jacevic, Vice Chair IIS highlighted the role of IIS in enhancing women's contribution in peace-building and security. The meeting concluded with agreement on mutual cooperation on capacity building, peer to peer exchange, peace-building and security.

#### **Rural Women Conference (PODA)**

Ms. Fehmida Mirza, Patron WPC and Senator Nuzhat Sadiq were invited to address the Rural Women Conference Islamabad by Potohar



Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) held on October 30 2013. They spoke about the work and vision of the Women Parliamentary Caucus and simultaneously highlighting the contribution and critical role of rural women in supporting movement for democracy, peace-building, human rights and development of Pakistan.

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

### **Parliamentary Friendship Groups Re-activated**

In order to promote friendly relations between parliament of Pakistan and elected representatives of the fraternity of democratic governments, the National Assembly has reactivated Parliamentary Friendship Groups with 88 countries through resolution moved by Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs on 07 September 2013.

The purpose of Parliamentary Friendship Groups is to provide means for closer cooperation and understanding between National Assembly and parliamentary institutions of friendly countries. These groups are an informal tradition of interaction between parliaments of different countries. With the election of new government, the old groups get dissolved and new groups are formed, usually with new conveners and members.

### **MDGs Task Group of National Assembly Participates in South Asian Conference on Sanitation**

Monday, 28th October 2013

Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Member National Assembly and convener of the MDGs Task Group of National Assembly led the group of 50 representatives from Climate Change Division, provincial governments, national and international development partners, UN agencies, civil society, academia and private sector and represented Pakistan at 5th South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN), hosted by Government of Nepal in Khatmandu.

Ms. Aurangzeb at the final declaration ceremony hosted by Honorable Mr. Khila Raj Regmi, the Chairman of Council of Ministers Government of Nepal conveyed the appreciation of Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, who also holds portfolio of Climate Change which is focal for SACOSAN in Pakistan for successfully hosting SACOSAN V and providing an invaluable opportunity to share experiences and learn from the leaders in the field.

Ms. Aurangzeb highlighted:

1. The development of new strategic vision 2025 that will provide a broader framework for development in Pakistan.
2. Government of Pakistan strengthens its commitment to improve its performance for MDGs targets by constituting a task force on MDGs at the parliament under the leadership of Honorable speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to have regular oversight on the performance of MDGs till 2015 and setting up priorities for Post MDG sustainable agenda.
3. There is paucity of data and information for reliable decision-making, so the delegates demand for development of a result oriented management information system to feed into policy formulation and monitoring of the sector.
4. To form a unified national agenda for integrated sanitation and hygiene approach through improved coordination at the national and provincial levels in close collaboration with social sector. A need for sector developing plan for WASH at the provincial levels in line with national agenda.
5. Pakistan is fully committed to "Sanitation for All – All for Sanitation".

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Murtaza Javed Abbasi Acts as Speaker National Assembly**

Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi acted as Speaker National Assembly, with effect from the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2013 vice



Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly, who had proceeded abroad to 129<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held at Geneva, Switzerland.

### **NA Speaker and Acting Speaker condemn bomb blast near the residence of Law Minister Khyber Pukhtunkhwa**

Thursday, 17th October 2013

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Acting Speaker, National Assembly condemned the blast near the residence of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister in Kulachi, D.I. Khan causing death of the Provincial Minister and loss of precious lives.

In their separate statements, the Speaker and Acting Speaker termed it barbaric and shameful act of terrorism. They said that the elements involved in such activities were the enemies of humanity and the country and playing with the lives of innocent people. The Speaker and Acting Speaker asked the Law Enforcing Agencies to arrest the miscreants involved in this heinous act and bring them to justice. They sympathized with bereaved families and prayed for eternal peace of departed souls and early recovery of injured.

### **Speaker National Assembly Admires the Great Courage of Special Persons**

Monday, 14th October 2013

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly has said that the most befitting manner to observe International White Cane Safety Day is to extend awareness about the rights and needs of the visually handicapped and sensitize the society at large about their problems by demonstrating a humane attitude. In his message to the nation on the occasion of International White Cane Safety Day, he said that in Pakistan, White cane is not only a symbol of the visually

impaired but also a tool for their independent mobility. These special people have the same capabilities and potential like other normal counterparts. It is our collective duty to create conducive atmosphere for the blind and need to take steps for their integration as productive members of the society.

The Speaker said that I will stress the media, opinion leaders, religious scholars, intellectuals, human rights activists and civil society organizations to play their role in raising awareness about this noble cause. I also call upon the people and relevant government agencies to reflect on the problems of visually handicapped person and think about what needs to be done to achieve the same standards in caring for the disabled as exists in other civilized nations and to work towards achieving those standards.

### **National Assembly has been summoned**

Monday, 28th October 2013

The National Assembly session has been summoned by the President to meet in the Parliament House, Islamabad on Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

### **New Members' Orientation on Rules of Procedure for Members Provincial Assembly of Punjab**

An orientation session was arranged for the members of Provincial Assembly of Punjab on



New Members Orientation on Rules of Procedure for Members Provincial Assembly of Punjab, was held in Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS) on October 10, 2013.



October, 10 2013 at Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS). The purpose of orientation was to make newly elected members of the said assembly familiar with the Rules of Procedure of Assembly. The orientation included different sessions regarding Question Hour in the

Assembly and other Non-Legislative business of the assembly. From Senate of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Anwar (Joint Secretary) and from National Assembly, Mr. Muhammad Mushtaq (Deputy Secretary Legislation) were among the speakers.

## ACTIVITIES OF PARLIAMENTARY MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU)

Parliamentary Management Unit (PMU) was created in the National Assembly to streamline the donor coordination and devise a tangible and target-specific strategy in this regard. PMU is working on the following ongoing projects:

### Strategic Vision for the Parliament

One of the important initiatives by the PMU is the preparation of a long-term Strategic Vision for the National Assembly, identifying areas of development, futuristic policies for modernization and improving the performance of the National Assembly. In this regard, the Vision also identifies exclusive role and dedicated areas of cooperation for all possible donor-driven projects, such as the “Improving Parliamentary Performance (IP3); United Nation Development program (UNDP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID)” and others. This will ensure that there would be no duplicity and parallel functioning of any project. The PMU for the first time is placing all these donor projects in the Strategic Vision to best utilize these projects for improving the performance of Parliament.

Closely aligned with the strategic vision is the strategic plan. In order to devise a strategic plan for the parliament, a survey is being conducted from Members of National Assembly to elicit their ideas for the strategic plan 2013-16. The three basic objectives/principles of the plan are:

1. To increase the efficiency of the existing

functions within the secretariat.

2. Introducing new functions within the secretariat.
3. An objective, transparent, quarterly review of the strategic plan based on measurable key performance indicators (KPIs).

The review of the previous strategic plan 2010-12 has been conducted and is being revised at the secretariat.

### Human Resource (HR) Survey

HR survey is devised for all the staff of the parliament. Through questionnaires, administered by respective departments, the input from parliament staff is obtained in order to understand the problem areas and to best allocate the parliament staff for the better performance and efficient utilization of resources. PMU considers it very important to utilize best practices of the modern workplace and to engage the employees as well in all the positive changes taking place in secretariat.

### Other Initiatives

Numerous other initiatives are also being taken under the PMU, which include; HR Survey: Energy Audit; Green Parliament, aiming to shift to solar energy thus becoming the first parliament in the world to go green; LED; and last but not the least the e-parliament.

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