



The National Assembly of Pakistan Gazette



March 2014

Jumaada al-Awal, 1435 A.H.



Contents

Legislative Business	2
Calls On	6
Committees Meetings	12
Parliamentary Friendship Groups	22
Foreign Visits & Delegations	23
Other News	24
Perspective	30
Special Article: National Security and Terrorism	32



LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Session

National Assembly was summoned by the president by the President to meet on Monday, the 24th February 2014 at 4.00 p.m. This is the 9th Session of the First Parliamentary Year of the 14th National Assembly. The session was in progress at the time of publication of Gazette. The important legislative business of the 7th session is summarized herewith:

A. Bills

Bill Passed

One bill was passed by the National Assembly on 24th February 2014.

The Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act (Amendment) Act, 2013

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973 (XXXV of 1973), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

The Islamabad High Court has been established by an Act of Parliament titled the Islamabad High Court Act, 2010 (XVII of 2010) which has been enacted in pursuance of Article 175 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Earlier the Islamabad Capital Territory was given representation in Punjab Bar Council and since there is "an independent High Court for the Islamabad Capital Territory the establishment of Islamabad Bar Council is a statutory requirement under the Legal

Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973 (XXXV of 1973).

Government Bills Introduced

One bill was laid by the government in National Assembly on 27th February, 2014.

The Credit Bureaus Act, 2014

A bill to provide for the incorporation and functioning of credit bureaus and to provide for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto. In Pakistan, a couple of private credit bureaus started their functions without any legal framework or regulatory requirements. This raised concerns for SBP especially due to sensitivity of banking information being maintained by these bureaus. Therefore, the draft law is proposed to regulate the business of private credit bureaus. Proposed law provides comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for incorporation and functioning of credit bureaus in Pakistan.

The law will provide a platform for accuracy in risk prediction. This would create rapid business benefits including increased array of credit products, improved collection rates, reduced net bad debts and low operating costs. The strong credit risk management culture would result in healthy growth of credit, reduce risks of default and enable lending to new segments of borrowers. These measures would stabilize financial



system and contribute to sustainable economic growth in the country.

Private Members Bills Introduced

Six bills were introduced in National Assembly by private member. These bills along with their short introductions are listed below:

1. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2014

2. The Civil Servants (Amendment) Bill, 2014

Whereas it is expedient to amend the Civil Servants Act, 1973 (Act No. LXXI of 1973), for the purpose hereinafter appearing;

Non-settlement or causing extraordinary delay in finalization of pension case by the prescribed authorities after retirement of civil servants is a matter of serious concern and violation of Fundamental Rights as provided in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as no nation can afford humiliation of such persons who had devoted their lives for this nation and country. To streamline and settlement of pension cases at the earliest is only possible with an effective deterrent. So no one can be harassed and humiliated for his due rights after a lone civil service.

3. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014

In all nation states all major mother tongues are all National languages. Since the major mother tongues of Pakistan which are Balochi, Balti, Brahvi, Punjabi, Pushto, Shina, Sindhi, Siraiki and Urdu have not

been given their due status in the Constitution of Pakistan and a number of popular movements are going on in the country demanding grant of National Status to these languages, therefore, it has become imperative to give those languages the status of National Language of Pakistan. This will inherently be recognizing the fact that each mother tongue of Pakistan is equal to the other in terms of status. That no one language is superior to the other. That all mother tongues belong to all of Pakistan and not just to the restricted areas where they are spoken. This nation will enhance concept of equality between all peoples of Pakistan speaking different languages. Giving respect to all mother tongues will bring the people of Pakistan closer to each other and enhance inter provincial harmony. Moreover, the teaching of Arabic and Persian at school level needs to be encouraged so that Islam is better understood by our population and so that regionally we remain connected to our age old literary traditions of Persian. Additionally it is important that all these National language promotion makes a country's culture and history richer and increases understanding between the peoples. It is a known UNESCO fact that education is enhanced in mother tongues and thus giving them due status will also enhance real education levels of Pakistan. The official language should continue being English till Urdu's substitution is made possible within next 15 years.

4. The Control of Narcotics Substances (Amendment) Act, 2014

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Control of Narcotic Substances Act,



1997 (No.XXV of 1997), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It has been observed that drugs and other narcotic substances are being supplied or made easily available to schools, colleges or other public places wherefrom the young generation is being induced for use of such narcotic substances due to their easy availability. The net result of such non-stop of narcotic substances is resulting in the form of an addict young generation and no vigilant nation can compromise on such destruction of its young generation. However, there is need for a legal mechanism to check availability of narcotic substances particularly in vicinity of schools, colleges or other public places as well as to general places. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the State and its functionaries and particularly the concerned police officers and officers of the tehsil administration to be directly responsible for controlling spreading of use of narcotic substances in their respective territorial jurisdiction because practically it is impossible to indulge in such illegal business in the absence of abetment or collaboration of such functionaries and in the interest of the young generation which is the future of this nation it is necessary concerned officers shall be directly held responsible for their negligence, whether advertent or inadvertent to safeguard the future of this nation and country from a hopeless and miserable agony.

5. The Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University Islamabad (Amendment) Bill, 2014

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University Islamabad Act, 2013 (XV of 2013), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

In normal practice, either the university is established as a new or a Medical College is upgraded to the status of university. A number of examples can be cited in this regard, King Edward Medical University, Lahore was established by upgrading the King Edward Medical College, DOW University of Health Sciences was established by upgrading DOW Medical College / Sindh Medical College. The Khyber Medical University was established as new. The Liaquat Medical and Health Sciences was established by upgrading the Liaquat Medical College. The public sector hospitals are attached as teaching hospitals with the University but are administered and maintained by the respective provincial health departments.

In the case of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, the PIMS, a tertiary level hospital was upgraded to become a University which is an anomaly. This anomaly in the Act has caused a great resentment in the three thousand strong workforce of PIMS and public at large. The entire workforce is apprehensive about the hospital becoming a university. They are of the view that their status as a civil servant will be endangered which is detrimental to their interest.

Furthermore, PIMS is a public sector tertiary level hospital providing quality health services at very affordable cost not only to



the public of ICT area but also to the people of the adjoining districts as well as from GB, AJK, FATA, KPK etc. This hospital has a patient turnover of around 13,21,645 per year and the Government is spending around 5 billion rupees annually on this hospital and its services. The up-gradation of PIMS to the status of the university will make PIMS as an autonomous corporate body that will have serious repercussions for the general public. This hospital/university shall not be able to provide the general public health care services at such cheap costs.

Many sections/sub-sections/ clauses of the Act of SZABMU are conflicting to the Higher Education Commission / federal university ordinance which is the guiding force behind the establishment of any new university. This Bill, therefore, seeks to remove the above stated anomalies in order to bring this Act at par with the HEC Federal Universities Ordinance, 2002 and other public sector medical universities.

6. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2014

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code. 1860 (Acc XLV of 1860), and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898) for the purposes hereinafter appearing:

Pakistan ratified the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) in 1990, and is under obligation to implement its provisions by harmonizing national policies, legislations, programmes, plans of action with it and report progress to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Geneva after every five years. To

undertake this task, existing laws are required to be harmonized with the UN CRC to effectively initiate requisite actions for meeting the standards set forth under the UN CRC.

The provisions provided in our criminal law statutes fail to cover number of very serious offence against the person of a child, like; child pornography, exposure to seduction, sexual abuse, cruelty to a child and trafficking in human beings within Pakistan. The amendments in the Pakistan Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure have been proposed while keeping in mind the international obligations and domestic realities. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 2013 is therefore proposed to be promulgated as an effort to harmonize our laws with the provisions of the UN CRC.

B. Ordinances

Only one ordinance has been laid in February 2014, as under:

The Gas (Theft Control and Recovery) Ordinance, 2014

WHEREAS it is expedient to prosecute cases of gas theft and other offences relating to gas and to provide for a procedure for speedy Trial, expeditious recovery of amounts due, value of gas, fines, penalties and other outstanding amounts payable and sums due to Gas Utility Companies and for matters ancillary and related thereto.

2. The President of Pakistan, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 89 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has been pleased to make and



promulgate the "Gas [Theft Control and Recovery) Ordinance, 2014". The Ordinance has been published in the Gazette of Pakistan on Thursday, January 23, 2014 vide No. F.2(1)/2014-Pub.

3. The Federal Government, in exercise of powers conferred by clause I2)(a)(ii) of Article 89 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has laid the said Ordinance titled "Gas. (Theft Control and Recovery) Ordinance, 2014* to perform the functions assigned to it as provided in the Ordinance.

C. Resolutions

Government Resolutions

Only one resolution was moved by government in February 2014.

A Resolution to celebrate Kashmir Solidarity Day with determination and sincerity (February 4, 2014)

Private Resolutions

Five resolutions were moved by private members in the month of February 2014.

1. The Government should take steps to resolve the issue of Dams by India (February 4, 2014)

“The House is of the opinion that the Government should take immediate steps to

resolve the issue of construction of Dams by India on the waters of Pakistan.”

2. Govt should take steps to celebrate the World Oral Health Day (February 25, 2014)

“This House is of the opinion that the Government should take steps to celebrate the ‘World Oral Health Day’ on 20th March every year.”

3. Govt. should take steps to do away load shedding of Gas (February 25, 2014)

“This House is of the opinion that the Government should take steps to do away with load shedding of gas in the country.”

4. Govt. should take steps to explore new reserves of oil and gas (February 25, 2014)

“This House is of the opinion that the Government should take steps to explore new reserves of oil and gas in the country.”

5. Govt. should take steps to make legislation on the pending recommendations of Council of Islamic Ideology

“This House is of the opinion that the immediate steps be taken to make legislation as per the pending recommendations of the Council of Islamic Ideology.”



CALLS ON

Ambassadors of Italy and Norway Call on NA Speaker

Ambassadors of Italy and Norway, separately called on Speaker, National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House, Islamabad, on 4th February 2014. Wide range of issues including enhancing parliamentary and economic ties between Pakistan and their respective



Ms. Cecilie Landsverk, Ambassador Kingdom of Norway called on Speaker NA, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on 04.02.2014

countries came under discussion.

Talking to the Italian Ambassador, the Speaker said that Pakistan values high its relations with Italy and desires to further strengthen it through people-to-people and parliamentary contacts. He asked the Ambassador to energize the engagement between business community of the both the countries especially in energy sector to overcome the prevalent energy scarcity in the country. He said that enhanced cooperation with friendly countries like Italy in the economic field will help Pakistan in its programme relating to poverty alleviation and jobs provision.

The Ambassador of Italy H.E. Adriano Chiodi Cianfarani said that his country also attaches great importance to its longstanding relations with Pakistan and assured the Speaker of his government's unwavering support to democracy and sustainable development in the country. He said that Italian business community was keen to invest in various sectors especially in energy, infrastructure development and manufacturing sectors. He agreed that parliamentary contact between both the countries would be a source of further strengthening the warm cordial relations.

Later, talking to the Norwegian Ambassador, the Speaker underlined the need for diversifying cooperation between Pakistan and Norway for mutual benefits of both the nations. He stressed for Norwegian support in Hydro-Power sector in order to overcome the energy crises in Pakistan. The Speaker said that Pakistan attaches immense importance to its existing cordial relations with Norway which has always been supportive of Pakistan. The Speaker



Mr. Adriano Chiodi Cianfarani, Ambassador Republic of Italy called on Speaker NA, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on 04.02.2014

emphasized the need for enhancing



cooperation and interaction between the parliaments and parliamentarians of both the countries for exchange of views and experiences.

Ms. Cecilie Landsverk, the Norwegian Ambassador reiterated her country's desire to further cement existing ties through people-to-people contacts and cooperation in social and economic sectors. She said that Norway has an expertise in Hydro-power sector, therefore, it would willingly help Pakistan in construction of hydro-power projects to meet its energy shortage. She also appreciated the contributions of Pakistan expatriates living in Norway.

German Representative Calls on NA Speaker

Dr. Michael Koch, Special German Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House, on Tuesday, 4th February, 2014. Various issues of mutual interest came under discussion during the meeting.

While talking to the visiting dignitary, the Speaker National Assembly said that Pakistan greatly values German assistance for socio-economic development in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan strongly desires a broad based and sustainable engagement between Germany and Pakistan for mutual benefit. He said that Parliamentary cooperation and interaction could be a driving force behind strengthening of the relations. He thanked German support to Pakistan for acquiring the GSP+ status.

Referring to the peace in the region, the Speaker said that Pakistan believes in peace and good relations with its neighbors. He said that the region had been badly affected by the insurgency for which joint efforts were imperative by the stakeholders. He said that Pakistan strongly desires a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan which was in the interest of the region and the world. He said that continuous interaction between parliamentarians of Afghanistan and Pakistan has brought both the countries more closer.

Dr. Michael Koch agreed with the Speaker and said that Germany also considers Pakistan an important country in the region. He said that Germany would provide every possible support for development in Pakistan since it has been effected by the war against insurgency. He was confident that the continuous engagement between parliamentarians of Afghanistan and Pakistan would help forge joint efforts to curb this menace. He was optimistic that the GSP+ status to Pakistan would help generation of economic activity in the country.

Ambassadors of Hungary and Indonesia Call on Speaker National Assembly

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has expressed his resolve to broaden and strengthen relationship of Pakistan with Hungary. He said that enhancing parliamentary contacts between legislatures of both the countries would add substance to the existing bilateral relations. The Speaker was talking to Ambassador of Hungary H.E.



Istvan Szabo, who called on him in Parliament House, on 6th February 2014.

The Speaker said that Pakistan accords high priority to its relations with Hungary and wants to further diversify those ties through collaboration in other fields. He said that Pakistan appreciates Hungarian support to Pakistan for attaining GSP plus status and EU's Autonomous Trade Preferences for Pakistan (ATPs). The Speaker said that Hungarian Mission in Pakistan should persuade Hungarian business community to take advantage of immense economic potential in Pakistan. He appreciated the contributions of MOL, the Hungarian company working in oil exploration sector in Pakistan.

The Speaker informed the Ambassador about the revival of Pak-Hungary Friendship Group in National Assembly. He said that Parliamentarians of both the countries could build bridges of friendship and bring both the countries more closer. He extended parliamentary support in facilitating the Hungarian business community, if required.

The Hungarian Ambassador H.E. Istvan Szabo while thanking the Speaker for his kind words said that his country also attaches immense importance to Pakistan and wants to revitalize its bilateral relations. He said that after the peaceful transition of power in Pakistan the importance of Parliament has increased manifold. He said that his country strongly desires to enhance its parliamentary relations apart from cooperation in other fields. He said that Hungary will continue its support to Pakistan in its socio-economic development

initiatives. He agreed that frequent people to people interaction would remove the negative perception about Pakistan.

Later, H.E. Burhan Muhammad, Ambassador of Indonesia called on Speaker National Assembly in Parliament House. Referring to the warm brotherly ties between both the countries, the speaker said that both the countries were attached in eternal bonds of religion, culture and brotherhood which needs to be taken to new heights. He stressed the need for enhancing parliamentary ties between legislatures of both the countries which would bring more intimacy. He also stressed the need for enhancing trade and cooperation between business communities of both the countries.

H.E. Burhan Muhammad, Indonesian Ambassador appreciated sentiments of the Speaker and said that Indonesia also considers Pakistan as its brother and an important economic partner. He agreed that the interaction between parliamentarians and business economic communities would enhance the understanding and business activity in both the countries. He informed the Speaker that Indonesia encourages import of various commodities from Pakistan especially fruits like mangoes and kinno. He said that a trade fair is being arranged in Jakarta this June for Pakistani entrepreneurs to display their goods for Indonesian market. He appreciated the establishment of Pakistan-Indonesia Friendship Group in National Assembly of Pakistan. He said that it would be reciprocated in the Indonesian National Assembly after the new Assembly is in



place after the general elections being held in April, 2014.

Pak-US Bilateral Ties Based on Mutual Interests and Respect: Says NA Speaker

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly has said that Pakistan and US have the same stated objectives of peace and stability in the region and we hope that our bilateral engagement would continue to broaden on basis of mutual respect and mutual interests. He was talking to a 10-Members media delegation from “The International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)” of United States which called on him in Parliament House, on 12th February 2014.

He said that Pakistan attaches high value to its US relations and we would like to enhance this relation. Our relationship with US is important and multifaceted. It is in the interest of the two countries to build on the current momentum in the ties and take the relationship to a strategic level that is sustainable and long term. “We want to promote trade with US which is an important market for our goods” he added.

The Speaker said that Pakistan is facing challenges like terrorism, extremism, poverty, illiteracy, inflation and energy shortages but the country is moving in the right direction and will successfully resolve the problems

confronting it. Pakistan needed support of the international community to strengthen democracy, alleviate poverty and improve social well-being of the people, Speaker added.

The Speaker said that we are committed to the freedom of media subject to the provisions of the Constitution of Pakistan and the State laws. Government does not believe in press advice, censorship and control of content or information. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that we always welcome the objective and healthy criticism from the media which is vital to the functioning of any democracy, promotion of democratic values, transparency and good governance. We believe that the role of electronic media, that extends beyond news and entertainment to actively contributing to the achievement of broader social and economic goals.

He said that this visit has provided them an opportunity to see the ground realities and factual problems being faced by Pakistan. He urged that after going back to their country, they should portray positive image of Pakistan. The delegation

appreciated the level of independence provided to media in Pakistan and wished that democracy may further flourish in the country.



NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called on HRH Crown Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, Deputy Premier and Minister for Defence of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Islamabad on 16.02.2014



NA Speaker Meets Saudi Crown Prince

Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called on Saudi Crown Prince and Defense Minister, His Royal Highness, Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud in Islamabad, on 16th February 2014. During the meeting, they exchanged cordial talks and discussed a number of issues of common interest between the two brotherly countries and ways of strengthening relations.

Referring to the immemorial brotherly ties with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, the Speaker said that both the countries were intertwined in religious and cultural bonds which have gained strength due to the commitment of ruling hierarchies on either side. He said that Pakistan greatly values Saudi support during natural calamities and crisis in Pakistan. The Speaker expressed his desire to further intensify cooperation between the two sides. He remarked that a regular exchange of high level visits would play an important role in further strengthening relations.

The Crown Prince termed relations between the two sides as historic and unique. He said that Pakistan is the closest friend and ally to the Kingdom. He said that existing relations would be strengthened in days to come and cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan would be further diversified for mutual benefit of both the nations.

He said that Saudi Arabia strongly desires to see a prosperous, stable and economically vibrant Pakistan. The Crown Prince also expressed that Saudi Arabia will extend all-out support to Pakistan in diverse fields. He

said that Saudi Arabia would always stand by its Pakistani brethren whenever needed.

Leader of The Opposition Meets Acting President

Leader of the Opposition and Chairman Public Accounts Committee in the National Assembly, Syed Khursheed Ahmad Shah called on Acting President of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Islamabad, on



Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah Leader of the Opposition called on Acting President Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in his chamber on 19.02.2014

Wednesday, 19th February 2014.

Overall situation in the country was discussed during the meeting. Both the Leaders had a consensus that all the political party were on a same page on important national issues of the country and they will never spare any sacrifice for this cause.

Syed Khursheed Ahmad Shah briefed the Acting President about the progress of Public Accounts Committee. He also congratulated Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on assuming charge of the Acting President.

Parliamentarians Across the Borders can Play a Pro-Active Role for Peace-Building: Says NA Speaker

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that democracy is the



vanguard of the rights of the oppressed and strengthening democratic values and institutions in Pakistan would ensure upholding of rights of the marginalized and underprivileged segments of the society. He said this while talking to a group of Women Legislators from United Kingdom, Afghanistan and Pakistan who called on him in Parliament House, on Friday, 21st February 2014.

The UK delegation was led by Baroness D'Souza, Lord Speaker of the House of Lords whereas; the Afghan delegation was led by Dr. Golalai Nur Safi, Member of Wolesi Jirga. Dr. Fehmida Mirza, former Speaker and incumbent Patron (WPC) and Mrs. Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Secretary General (WPC) were also present on the occasion.

He said that dialogue between parliamentarians of UK, Pakistan and Afghanistan will facilitate exchange of views and critical information, national and international collaboration as well as institutionalized gender concerns and legislation. The Speaker said that the parliamentarians across the borders can play a pro-active role for peace-building and conflict resolutions, as they are the harbingers of change in the social and political life of any nation.

The Speaker said that Terrorism and Sabotage have no gender yet their repercussions are predominantly borne by women and children in face of forced migrations, displacements and consequent vulnerability. He called upon the British parliamentarians to ensure re-devising the

funding priorities of their government in these critical areas to the poorest of the poor of our societies which will not only help counter illiteracy and improve health indicators, but also facilitate the de-radicalization of this region.

Apprising the Parliamentarians, the Speaker said that a task force on MDGs has been constituted to have the firsthand information and state of socio-economic development with the stakeholders and provincial governments after the post 18th Amendment scenario. He said that the monitoring and evaluation systems of funds dispensation may also be critically scrutinized by the parliamentarians to expedite the pace of work and commitments in these areas.

The visiting Parliamentarians while acknowledging the current dialogue said that exchange of views and experiences had helped them to discuss the challenges, opportunities and issues within the region's peculiar needs and concerns. They said that women in the region were the sufferers. They agreed for continuation of the dialogue for forging solutions for the issues confronting the women and children in the region.

Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Speaker Punjab Assembly called on Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Speaker NA at Parliament House

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly has said that that democracy has taken roots and all the progressive political forces were united on the issues of national importance and for the betterment of the masses. He expressed these views while meeting with the Speaker Punjab Assembly



Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan who called on him in the Parliament House, on 27th February 2014.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the Parliamentary Business of both the Houses as well as important issues of national and public interest. Sardar Ayaz

Sadiq said that an effective and vibrant

Committee

System has been

established in National

Assembly which

ensures

parliamentary

accountability of

the Executive.

He said that the

Public Accounts

Committee has been headed by the Leader of the Opposition and comprised of Members drawn from all political parties.

He also informed to the Speaker Punjab Assembly regarding the steps taken for



Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Speaker Punjab Assembly called on Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly at Parliament House on 27.02.2014

austerity measures in the secretariat while adopting the electrification requirements through solar energy with the support of donors and establishing paperless office. He also shared the proactive and vibrant Parliamentary Friendship Groups mechanism which established in National Assembly.

Both the

Speakers

discussed

holding of

Speaker's

Conference in

near future in

Islamabad.

During the

meeting, Rana

Muhammad

Iqbal asked the

Speaker

National Assembly for support of Punjab Assembly for capacity building of its Members and support staff through Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Kashmir Committee Presents Memorandum to the United Nations in Islamabad on Kashmir Solidarity Day

On the occasion of the Kashmir Solidarity day a group of Members of the National Assembly presented a Memorandum on behalf of the Chairman, Special Kashmir Committee of the National Assembly,

Maulana Fazl-ur-Rahman to the Secretary General of the United Nations Organization. The Members of the National Assembly comprising of Mr. Ijaz-ul-Haq (MNA) and Ch. Iftekhar Nazeer (MNA) presented the Memorandum jointly. The Memorandum was received by the Mr. Timo Pakkala, Resident Representative of the United Nations in his office in Islamabad.



The Memorandum reminded the United Nations about the pending agenda of United Nations since more than six decades. It further emphasized that the holding of a plebiscite in the Jammu and Kashmir without further delay in accordance with the United Nations Security Council institutions is the only way to resolve the Kashmir issue. The delegation also urged the UN that India may be persuaded to resume the composite dialogue with Pakistan with a view to peacefully resolving all outstanding issues between the two countries including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The delegation impressed upon the Human Rights Council to appoint a Special Rapporteur on Jammu and Kashmir to check the unabated human rights violations in the area. The Members also stressed upon the Secretary General to actively encourage, facilitate and support efforts leading to a peaceful Resolution of Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant Security Council Resolutions as well as to exercise the mandate entrusted to him by Charter of the United Nations and under relevant international instruments, to safeguard the fundamental rights and freedoms of the oppressed Kashmiri people.

Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination

Fourth meeting of the Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations & coordination was held on Thursday, 6th February 2014, at 2:00 p.m. in Committee Room No.7, Parliament House, Islamabad, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi, MNA/Chairman.

The Standing Committee showed its displeasure for not attending the meeting by the President and Registrar of Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC). The Standing Committee thoroughly discussed the Report of the Sub-Committee on the issue of PM&DC presented by Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, Convener of the Sub-Committee. The Standing Committee recommended that all the decisions taken in the meeting of Council of PM&DC, on 4th February, 2014 at Karachi may be withheld till next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, Dr. Muhammad Afzal Khan Dhandla, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Jatt, Choudhry Muhammad Shahbaz Babar, Dr. Hafeez-ur-Rehman Khan Drishak, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Ms. Rida Khan, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Dr. Mahreen Razaque Bhutto, Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon, Dr. Nikhat shakeel Khan, Qari Muhammad Yousaf, Mr. Abdul Qhar Khan Wadan, MNAs, and Minister of State for National Services, Regulations & Coordination attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the senior officers of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination and its attached Departments.

Standing Committee on Education, Training and Higher Standards in Education

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education met here on Wednesday, 12th February, 2014 at Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Mr.



Gulzar Khan to discuss/examine the budgetary proposals relating to PSDP, for next financial year, 2014-2015. The Joint Secretary M/o Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education and other attached department Heads gave detailed briefing on the budgetary proposals



Mr. Gulzar Khan, Chairman Standing Committee on Education, Training & Standards in Higher Education chairing the committee meeting at Parliament House on 12.02.2014

relating to PSDP, for the financial year, 2014-2015. After detailed discussion the Committee approved the budgetary proposals for financial year, 2014-2015. The Minister of State for the Ministry of Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education also participated in the meeting and apprised the Committee about steps taken for approving education standard in Pakistan. To a question the Minister of State informed that they are intending to establish Federal Technical Board of education at federal level to conduct exams of Technical colleges in order to stop the delivering of fake degrees to students and improve the quality of technical education in Pakistan. The Committee also constituted a six member Sub-Committee under the Convener ship of Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, MNA on HEC "to examine the affairs of HEC and make recommendations for further improvement in Standards of Higher Education". The Committee also expressed great concern over the issuance of fake

certificates to the students by the Skilled Development Council in Punjab working under the National Training Bureau and directed the Ministry to take action against the responsible. The Committee also expressed disappointment over the performance of schools

working under the National Commission for Human Development and Basic Education Community Schools across the country and asked the concerned to improve the standard and provide details of these schools district wise to the members of the Committee.

The Committee further observed from the briefing that there is overlapping of some departments and asked the Ministry to look into the matter and it needs rectification. The meeting was attended by Dr. Zulfiqar AH Bhatti, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, Ms. Asyia Naz Tanoti, Ms. Amra Khan, Ms. Phyllis Azeem, Ms. Musrat Rafique Mahesar, Ms. Shahida Rehmani, Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak, Mr. Muhammad Rehan Hashmi, Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan and Chaudhry Hamid Hameed MNAs and Minister of State for Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education and Officers/Officials of the Ministry and its attached departments.



Standing Committee on Housing and Works

Pakistan Public Works Department (Pak.P.W.D.) may complete those on-going schemes on priority basis; where work has been done 20 % or more. This was the unanimous resolve of National Assembly Standing Committee on Housing & Works, which met on 12th February, 2014, in the office of Chief Engineer Pak. PWD, Karachi. Haji Muhammad Akram Ansari, MNA/ Chairman Standing Committee on Housing & Works, presided over the meeting.

2-' Earlier, giving the briefing to National Assembly Standing Committee, it was apprised by the Director General Pak PWD that Pak PWD is principal executing agency for creation at assets, planning, designing, construction and maintenance of Federal Government buildings and other structures. South Zone of PWD is also responsible for execution of federally funded works in the Province of Sindh. While examining the implementation status of schemes, it was informed that there are 69 on going schemes, which would be completed as and when the department gets the funds from the Federal Government.

3. The Committee Members expressed their displeasure for not releasing the salaries of PWD employees for the last three months; and directed the DG to resolve the matter by tomorrow. While discussing the issue of non-availability of maintenance funds for government owned houses and office buildings, the Committee Members were of the opinion that every Federal department

should itself look after the maintenance work of buildings/houses; in order to save the buildings from deterioration. The Committee also advised the Management to utilize the expertise of surplus employees in maintaining the conditions of the building instead awarding the contracts to the private contractors.

4. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Rajab Ali Khan Baloch, Rana Zahid Hussain Khan, Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb, Ms. Khalida Mansoor, Ms. Nighat Parveen Mir, Mr. Abdul Sattar Bichani, Mr. Abdul 0,3har Khan Wadan, Mr. Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan and Ms. Tahira Asif, MNAs; besides senior officers of Ministry of Housing & Works and Pak PWD.

Standing Committee on States and Frontier Regions

The National Assembly Standing Committee on States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) met today in Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Mr. Muhammad Jamal ud Din, MNA. The Committee examined the cess is being collected on transport carrying goods passing through the limits of Khyber Agency and expressed dissatisfaction over the details provided by the Political Agent Khyber Agency. Members of the Committee expressed that the cess collected amount is not utilized in proper way for the welfare of Khyber Agency people for which is required a proper mechanism. Owing to it the Committee constituted a four member Sub-Committee under the Convener ship of Sahibzada Tariq Ullah MNA, to examine the income and expenditures of Political Agent,



Khyber Agency and prepare proposals/recommendations in this regard. The Composition of the Sub-Committee is as under –

1. Sohibzada Tariq Ullah Convener
2. Mr. Ghalib Khan Member
3. Dr. Qaiser Jamal Member
4. Ms. Ayesha Gulalai Member

2. The Chairman Standing Committee asked the FATA Secretariat to look into the matter of upgradation of paramedical staff working in FATA whereas the post of paramedical staff of province has already been upgraded. The Committee also asked the FATA Secretariat to take up the service structure rules issue of PATA Levis with the home department of KPK to finalize the service structure rules at the earliest. The Committee further recommended that the Parliamentarians of FATA should be consulted on the PSDP projects as taking place in their constituencies.

3. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Ghalib Khan, Begum Tahira Bukhari, Ms.

Iffat Liaqat, Mrs. Suriya Jatoi. Dr. Qaiser Jamal, Ms. Ayesha Gulalai, Mr. Bismillah Khan, Sohibzada Tariq Ullah, Mian Shahid Hussain Khan Bhatti, Ms. Shaiza Mubbashar and Mr. Shah Gee Gul Afridi MNAs and Federal Minister for SAFRON

and Officers/Officials of the Ministry, FATA Sectt.

NA Committee on House & Library Meets

The House and Library Committee of the National Assembly expressed its serious reservations on the quality of maintenance work carried out by CDA in different blocks of Parliament Lodges. It also expressed its concern over the supply of substandard furniture and fixtures in Parliament Lodges. The House and Library Committee met under the Chairmanship of Murtaza Jaed Abassi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly in Parliament House on 13th February 2014.

The Committee while deliberating upon the agenda observed that the CDA staff deputed at the Lodges remained absent from their duties and never properly responded on the

complaints of the MNAs residing in the Lodges. The Deputy Speaker directed CDA to address the complaints of the members and ensured the quality of the

maintenance work.

This was maiden meeting of the committee with a heavy agenda related to the progress report of construction work of additional family suites and servant quarters, maintenance of accommodation and current status of National Assembly Employees



Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker NA chairing the meeting of the Standing Committee on House & Library of the National Assembly at Parliament House on 13.02.2014



Cooperative Housing Society (NAECHS) and allocation of funds for maintenance as well as supply of furniture to the Parliament Lodges.

The committee expressed its displeasure on the delay in construction of additional family suites at Parliament Lodges. The Committee was informed that the CDA was committed to complete the initial phase of the project by the end of March 2014 but on ground however, due to slow construction work, the completion of the project would be delayed. Deputy Speaker directed to the CDA authorities to bear the expenses of the accommodation rent for Parliamentarians as per their entitlement that were waiting for allotments of suites.

Murtaza Javed Abassi, therefore, constituted a sub-committee comprising MNAs Mr. Iqbal Mehdi Khan, Nawabzada Mazhar Ali, Mrs. Shahida Rehmani and Malik Ibrar Ahmad to monitor the maintenance work in Parliament Lodges, sub-standard furniture and other fixtures used in lodges and assess the required CDA staff for this purpose. The Committee will also scrutinize the enquiry report submitted by the CDA authority for irregularities in accommodation and other maintenance work.

The Deputy Speaker also instructed that the CDA will provide the detail of the allottees of the Parliament lodges as well as the servant quarters and additional rooms. He also directed for displaying these details on the notice board in the Parliament Lodges. He also directed the concerned officials of Ministry of Finance and CDA to look into

the matter for the release of maintenance grant and their proper utilization.

Later, the administrator of the NAECHS informed the committee that the additional land for the society has been acquired and possession letters to the members of the society who completed the required criteria have been awarded. The Deputy Speaker decided to discuss the progress on the issue in next meeting of the committee.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Iqbal Mehdi Khan, Nawabzada Mazhar Ali, Mian Muhammad Rasheed, Sardar Mumtaz Khan, Hafiz Abdul Karim, Mrs. Shahida Rehmani, Mr. Mehboob Alam, Molana Qamar ud din & Malik Ibrar Ahmad, MNA on special invitation and senior officers of the National Assembly, CDA and Finance Ministry.

N.A Standing Committee on Water and Power Meets

A meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Water and Power was held on 14-02-2014 at 2:00 pm in Committee Room No. 7, Parliament House, Islamabad, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Muhammad Arshad Khan Laghari, MNA. The agenda of the meeting was as under:-

1. Briefing by HESCO.
2. Discussion on out of turn promotions in HESCO.
3. Briefing by SEPCO.
4. Briefing by QESCO.
2. Three DISCOs namely HESCO, SEPCO and QESCO briefed the Committee about different issues prevailing in their areas. The



Committee took notice of irregularities committed in the seniority list, recently issued by HESCO. The Ministry committed to form a committee on this issue and will give reply in the forthcoming meeting of the Standing Committee. A Sub Committee under the Convenorship of Nawab Muhammad Yousaf Talpur, MNA was also made to look into the affairs of HESCO.

3. The Committee was told that conservation policy is being given by the Government very soon and load shedding will be reduced as 2000 MW are going to be added up in the system by May, 2014.

4. The meeting was attended by MNAs, Malik Ihtebare Khan, Lt. Col.(Retd) Ghulam Rasool Sahi, Sardar Mansab Ali Dogar, Rana Afzal Hussain, Rana Muhammad Ishaq Khan, Pir Muhammad Aslam Bodla, Rao Muhammad Ajmal Khan, Nawab Muhammad Yousaf Talpur, Mr. Junaid Akbar, Rai Hassan Nawaz Khan, Moulana Muhammad Gohar Shah, Syed Kazim Ali Shah, Mr. Abdul Rahim Khan Mandokhail, Syed Ghazi Gulab Jamal and Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqub and other officers from the Ministry of Water and Power and its attached departments.



Mr. T.C.A. Raghavan, Indian High Commissioner called on Mr. Awais Ahmad Leghari, Chairman Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs in Islamabad on 17.02.2014

5. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

Indian High Commissioner Calls upon the Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan called upon the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Foreign Affairs, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, at the National Assembly on 17th February 2014. Both, during the meeting, expressed their firm

desire and commitment to improve relations between the two neighboring countries.

The Indian High Commissioner shared that an appetite for

better relations is inhabited across the political divide in India. They agreed that the communication gap prevalent between the parliaments of the two countries needs to be bridged by more frequent interaction at parliamentary level. Mr. Leghari added that clarity from both sides on longstanding issues is a prerequisite for sustainable relations. He also signified the involvement of civil society and academia in a sustainable dialogue.



Mr. Leghari wished not to have Pakistan as an electoral issue in the negative sense. Political posturing in order to gain electoral dividends is something that should be discouraged on both sides.

Mr. Chair also mentioned the role Indian media is playing through its hostile coverage of Pak-India relationships. Signifying the critical role of media as a pillar of state, he proposed to make concerted efforts to improve this.

Both, Mr. Chairman stressed that while economic and trade relations between the two countries are improving, the official political dialogue also needs to be resumed at the earliest.

The Indian High Commissioner expressed his resolve to coordinate with the new legislature, once the elections install a new government in India in May this year, and strive to foster interaction between the two legislatures.

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control was held on 19th February, 2014 at 01:30 pm in Committee Room No. 02, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Rana Shamim Ahmad Khan, MNA to discuss the agenda "A comprehensive briefing by the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control and its attached Departments (except Narcotics Control)". The following Members attended the meeting;

- i. Syed Iftikhar-ul-Hassan MNA
- ii. Ms. Tahmina Daultana MNA
- iii. Mr. Nauman Islam Shaikh MNA
- iv. Nawab Muhammad Yousaf Talpur MNA
- v. Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan MNA
- vi. Dr. Arif Alvi MNA
- vii. Syed Asif Hasnain MNA
- viii. Sardar Nabeel Ahmed Gabol MNA
- ix. Mr. Sher Akbar Khan MNA
- x. Makhdoom Syed Ali Hassan Gillani MNA

2. The Standing Committee passed a unanimous resolution condemning recent terrorist attacks on AAJ TV, Nawai Waqt TV and ARY TV. The committee strongly condemned the heinous crime of killing of 23 Frontier Constabulary soldiers and 22 police cops in Karachi as well as other terrorist attacks. Sure Fateha was also recited for the deceased victims of terrorist attacks.

3. The committee was briefed on the working of Ministry of Interior and its attached departments. The Minister of State Mr. Balighur Rehman told the Committee that a National Security Policy will soon be presented before the Cabinet. It was further told that intelligence sharing among all the agencies has increased and all departments under Ministry of Interior has been made proactive rather being reactive.

4. The meeting was thereafter adjourned.

Second meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage

Second meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage was



held on Wednesday, 19th February 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Committee Room of Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC), Islamabad. The meeting presided over by Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudhry, MNA/Convener.

The Sub-Committee showed its displeasure on the presentation given by PTV as it was not according to the agenda and directed that the detail presentation according to the agenda will be given in the next meeting on performance based action taken by PTV to improve the quality of its productions. And also, include the recommendations for accreditation / affiliation of PTV Academy with any local and international institution / University in its future plans.

Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote and Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon, MNAs attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the senior officers of Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and PTV.

NA Business Advisory Committee Discusses Agenda for the 9th Session of the National Assembly

The House Business Advisory Committee of the National Assembly met in Parliament House, on Monday, 24th February, with Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly in the chair to discuss the business for the 9th Session of the National Assembly.

After discussion, it was decided that the current session of the National Assembly will continue till 7th March, 2014 and sittings of the National Assembly will be

held in morning except Monday. It was further decided that National Assembly would take up question hour, adjournment motions, calling attention notices and other matters of public importance for discussion apart from legislation during the current session. It was also decided that the next session of the National Assembly would be held as per tentative calendar of the sessions for the 1st Parliamentary year.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Zahid Hamid, Minister for Science & Technology, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Defence Production, Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir, Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs/Chief Whip of the Pakistan Muslim League (N), MNAs; Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, Ch. Muhammad Ashraf, Ms. Shaista Pervez, Syed Naveed Qamar, Mr. Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani, Dr. Arif Alvi, Sheikh Salahuddin, Moulana Muhammad Khan Sherani and Syed Ghazi Gulab Jamal.

Parliamentary Committee on appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and Members of Election Commission

First meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and Members of Election Commission was held on 26th February, 2014 at 10:30am in Committee Room No. 02, Parliament House, Islamabad for election of its Chairman/ Chairperson. The following Members attended the meeting;



- i. Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana
- ii. Senator Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasir
- iii. Senator Mr. Islamuddin Shaikh



After the Election of Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Chief Election Commissioner & Members of Election Commission, Senator Malik Muhammad Rafiq Rajwana sitting in his chair at Parliament House on 26.02.2014

- iv. Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel
- v. Mr. Muhammad Arshad Khan Laghari, MNA
- vi. Dr. Darshan, MNA
- vii. Mr. Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, MNA
- viii. Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Safdar, MNA
- ix. Shazia Mari, MNA
- x. Sheikh Aftab Abmed, MNA / (Chief Whip)

2. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. Special Secretary, National Assembly Secretariat welcomed the Members and briefed them about the procedure of election of Chairman/ Chairpersons on. Thereafter, he invited Members to propose name for the Chairman/ Chairperson.

3. Senator Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasir proposed the name of Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana for Chairman whereas Senator Mr. Islamuddin Shaikh and Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel seconded his proposal. Consequently Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana was declared as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee unopposed.

4. Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana, Chairman was invited to chair the meeting. All the members felicitated the Chairman being elected unopposed and extended their full co-operation. The Chairman thanked the members of the Parliamentary Committee for reposing confidence in him and assured them to work in accordance with the aspirations of the Members of the Committee. He also thanked the party leadership, Senator Raja Zafarul Haq, leader of the house in Senate, Sheikh Aftab, MNA/ Chief Whip.

5. The meeting was thereafter adjourned.

Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations & coordination



Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi, Chairman Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination chairing the committee meeting at Parliament House on 06.02.2014

Sixth meeting of the Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations & coordination was held on 27th February, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in Committee

Room No.7, Parliament House, Islamabad,



under the Chairmanship of Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi, MNA.

The Standing Committee adopted the Report presented by Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, MNA / Convener on behalf of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on the National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination on the issue of the irregularities made for convening of the elections, constitution of Executive Committee and Appointment of Registrar in Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC). The Standing Committee directed the Ministry to reply on its recommendations within two weeks.

The Standing Committee approved the budgetary proposals relating to the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) of Ministry and its attached Departments for the year 2014-15.

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, Ms. Shakila Luqman, Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi, Dr. Mahreen Razaque Bhutto, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon, Mr. Nasir Khan Khattak, Qari Muhammad Yousaf, Mr. Abdul Qhar Khan Wadan, MNAs, attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the senior officers of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination.

PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

Pak-Japan Friendship Group Visits Japan Embassy

Pakistan-Japan Friendship Group met under the convenership of Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, MNA in Embassy of Japan, on Wednesday, 12th February 2014. Speaker National Assembly/President (PJFG) Sardar Ayaz Sadiq especially attended the meeting. The Ambassador of Japan Mr. Hiroshi Inomata and other senior functionaries of the Embassy were also present on the occasion.

The Speaker addressing the Members of the Pak-Japan Friendship Group said that Pakistan attaches immense importance to its relations with Japan and wants to further cement those through enhanced cooperation between the legislatures of both the countries. He said that Parliamentarians could build the bridges of friendship and bring Japan more closer to Pakistan. He said

that political hierarchy was continuously in contact however, the parliamentary linkages were missing. He asked the Members of the PJFG to interact with their Japanese counterparts and exchange views and experiences.

The Ambassador of Japan Mr. Hiroshi Inomata thanked the Speaker for his kind remarks and said that his country also considers Pakistan as one of its friends and economic partner. He complimented National Assembly of Pakistan for taking initiative for establishment of Pak-Japan Friendship Group in National Assembly. He said that similar group also exists in Japanese legislature. He said that legislators of either side could bring both the countries closer. He said Japanese Embassy would play its role and arrange parliamentary



interaction between Pakistani and Japanese Legislators.

Later, the PJFG discussed the ways and means to carry out the activities of the Friendship Group. Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq,

Convener (PJFG) decided to chalk out a tentative program of the Group for the current year. She asked the Members and the Japanese Ambassador to give their input so that the Group could be made vibrant.

FOREIGN VISITS AND DELEGATIONS

Murtaza Javed Abbasi leads NA delegation to 9th session of PUIC being held at Tehran, Iran

Deputy Speaker, National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi led Pakistan Parliamentary Delegation in 9th Session of Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries (PUIC) being held from 14-19 February, 2014 at Tehran, Iran. The delegation proceeded to Tehran on 17th February, 2014. The delegation comprised MNAs; Syed Kazim Ali Shah, Dr. Asma Mamdot and Dr. Mahreen Razzaque Bhutto.

The delegation during its stay in Tehran participated in the Conference of PUIC and its related meetings. The Members of the delegation also met their counterparts on sidelines of the Conference and exchange views and experiences. The Conference pondered upon variety of issues and challenges confronting to Muslim Ummah and strengthening the cooperation

and coordination among the Parliaments of Members States. A separate meeting of the Women Parliamentarians PUIC Members State was also held as a sideline meeting of the Conference.

Women MPs from Pakistan, UK and Afghanistan to Participate in 3-Day Dialogue in Islamabad

A three day dialogue between women parliamentarians of Pakistan, United Kingdom and Afghanistan started on 20th February, 2014 in Islamabad. The dialogue is being organized by Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) in collaboration of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA-UK Branch) with an aim to foster bilateral relations between the Women MPs besides strengthening their role in legislatures and broadening the understanding of issues impacting women across their respective countries.



Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Patron (WPC) chairing inaugural session of 3-day trilateral meeting of Women Parliamentarians of UK, Afghanistan and Pakistan in Islamabad on 20.02.2014



The UK delegation was led by Lord Speaker of the House of Lords Baroness D'Souza whereas Dr. Golalai Nur Safi, MP led the Afghan delegation. The Pakistani delegation comprised Women Members of the National Assembly and Senate.

Dr. Fehmida Mirza, the Parton (WPC) inaugurated the dialogue in Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS), Islamabad by delivering a keynote address. The Federal Ministers for National Health Services & Regulations and Education was invited to give the participants, an insight of the government policies and initiatives in respect of healthcare and education in Pakistan.

It may be recalled that WPC was established when Dr. Fehmida Mirza was the Speaker of the National Assembly. Under her able leadership, the Caucus had been actively engaged in building networks with colleagues from friendly countries besides initiating landmark pro-women and children legislation in the Pakistani legislature. The WPC and CPA-UK Branch considering the importance of promotion of women in all spheres of society to be fundamental for socio-economic development and political empowerment embarked upon the Parliamentary Partnership Program in year 2012. The current dialogue is the continuation of that program.

OTHER NEWS

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker Condemn the Bomb Blast at Peshawar

Islamabad: February 2, 2014: Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Speaker Murtaza Javed Abbasi have strongly condemned the bomb blast near Qissa Khawani Bazaar, Peshawar and expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives.

In their separate statements, they termed it a barbaric and shameful act of terrorism. They said that the elements involved in such activities were the enemies of humanity and the country. They called upon the law enforcing agencies to apprehend the culprits involved in this shameful and heinous act and bring them to justice. They prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the souls of martyred in eternal peace and sympathized with

bereaved families. They also prayed for early recovery of injured.

Cancer Is a Leading Cause of Deaths in Low Income Countries: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly has said that cancer is a leading cause of deaths globally and needed stringent awareness campaign to save the lives of the people who died from this fatal disease. He said this in his message on the World Cancer Day being observed throughout the globe tomorrow.

He said that the Cancer Day is observed to create awareness about the diseases and prevention aspects. Unfortunately more than 70 percent of all cancer deaths occur in low income countries, where resources for



prevention diagnosis and treatment of cancer are limited. He said that healthy diet, physical activities and living in clean atmosphere has also proved helpful in reducing the risk factors of cancer and other chronic diseases. He said that a significant proportion of cancer can be cured if it is diagnosis at early stages.

He said that inequalities between developed and developing countries in term of cancer prevention, treatment and cure should be addressed. He also called upon the NGOs involved in Medical field to persuade people to take early medication to curtail cancer after it has been diagnosed.

He said that illiteracy, misconceptions and social stigmas; lack of medical and infrastructure facilities are the major challenges hurdles in combating this fatal disease. He asked the federal and the provincial health departments to provide diagnostic and treatment facilities for cancer at all the hospitals especially in the rural areas on priority basis.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker Condemn the Bomb Blasts at Peshawar and Karachi

Islamabad: February 4, 2014: Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Speaker Murtaza Javed Abbasi have strongly condemned the bomb blasts near Kocho Risaldar, Qisah Khawani Bazaar Peshawar and railway track near Landhi Station Karachi and expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives.

In their separate statements, they termed it a barbaric and shameful act of terrorism. They

said that the elements involved in such activities were the enemies of humanity and the country. They called upon the law enforcing agencies to apprehend the culprits involved in this shameful and heinous act and bring them to justice.

They prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the souls of martyred in eternal peace and sympathized with bereaved families. They also prayed for early recovery of injured.

Durable Peace in South Asia Cannot be Achieved without Resolution of Kashmir Issue”: Says NA Speaker

Islamabad; February 4, 2014: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that the Kashmir issue is not only a threat to peace and prosperity of South Asia but also to the entire world. Peaceful settlement of Kashmir issue in accordance with the aspirations of Kashmiri people is imperative for the peace and development of the region. He said this in his message on the Kashmir Solidarity Day being commemorated on 5th February, 2014.

He said that this day serves as an opportunity to recognize the countless sacrifices of the brave people of Kashmir who have remained resolute and steadfast against the oppression, spreading more than six decades. “Pakistan would extend its unwavering moral, political and diplomatic support to the just struggle of the Kashmiri people for their unalienable right of self-determination, as enshrined in the UN Charter and relevant UN resolutions” Speaker added.



He said that the Kashmir dispute remains close to the heart of every Pakistani and the future of both Pakistan and Kashmir is linked. Durable peace in South Asia cannot be achieved without resolution of Kashmir issue, the Speaker urged. He called upon the United Nations and International Community to play their due role in bringing an end to the repression, violence and human rights violations being committed against the people of occupied Kashmir.

Reiterating support for the Kashmiri people, the Speaker said that Pakistan will stand by Kashmiris till the realisation of their demands for a peaceful resolution of the issue and will provide diplomatic and moral support to them.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker Condole the death of father of Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui

Islamabad; February 7, 2014: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly have condoled the death of father of MNA Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

In their separate condolence messages to Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker expressed their deep sense of grief and sorrow over the passing away of his father. They prayed to Almighty Allah to shower his blessing on the departed soul and grant fortitude to him and other members of the family to bear the irreparable loss.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker Condole the Death of Father of Syed Waseem Hussain

Islamabad; February 7, 2014: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly have condoled the death of father of MNA Syed Waseem Hussain.

In their separate condolence messages to Syed Waseem Hussain, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker expressed their profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of his father. They prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant strength and courage to him and other members of the family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker Condemn Bomb Blasts in Peshawar

Islamabad: February 11, 2014: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly have strongly condemned the bomb blasts in Peshawar and expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives.

In their separate statements, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker termed it a barbaric and shameful act of terrorism. They said that the elements involved in such activities were the enemies of humanity and the country. They were confident that the culprits involved in such activities will not be spared and will be brought to justice.

They prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the souls of martyred in eternal peace and sympathized with bereaved families and prayed for early recovery of injured.



Active Participation of Women; Imperative for National Development: Says NA Speaker

Islamabad: February 11, 2014; Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly has said that we are committed to emancipate women and protect them from all kinds of exploitation and discrimination. In this struggle, we are inspired by the teachings of our religion, the dictates of our Constitution and the vision of our founding father Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. He said this in his message on the National Women Day being commemorated throughout Pakistan tomorrow.

He said that Pakistani women are among the most resilient among the womenfolk in the world as they have faced the rigours of wars, unprecedented floods and other natural calamities. “Our rural women are a major contributor to the national economy and playing their appreciable role in elevating the status of their households through hard work. They continue to be powerful metaphor of courage and hope in the face of heavy odds and challenges” he added.

He said that provision of basic health facilities and education to women is the top priority of the government. The Speaker admired that the female MNAs showed keen interest in the legislative business with their male colleagues during sessions of the National Assembly. He said Women Parliamentary Caucus in the National Assembly proposed several amendments based on gender equality and contributed with their active participation in different Bills and Acts like “The National Commission on the Status of Women Bill,

2012” and “The Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010”.

The Speaker said that women participation is pivotal for sustainable development. No society can grow unless it encourages its women to play their role in its development as active partners. He said that it is our national duty to protect the interests of women and provide them equal opportunities. Acknowledging the active participation of women in Pakistan, the Speaker said that, today women in Pakistan are active in the fields of education, economy, health, social welfare, business and law including police, army, air force and other traditional and non-traditional fields.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker condemn Bomb Blasts in Karachi

Islamabad: February 13, 2014: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly have strongly condemned the bomb blasts on Police Bus in Karachi and expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives.

In their separate statements, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker termed it a barbaric and shameful act of terrorism. They said that the elements involved in such activities were the enemies of humanity and the country. They were confident that the culprits involved in such activities will not be spared and will be brought to justice.

They prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the souls of martyred in eternal peace and sympathized with bereaved families and prayed for early recovery of injured.



Future of the Country Rests in the Hands of Youth: Says NA Speaker

Islamabad: February 17, 2014; Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly has said that future of the country rests in hands of youth and our young people has all the potential and abilities to combat the challenges confronted to our Nation to steer the country to future glory. He expressed these views while meeting with a group of students of Lahore Grammar School in Parliament House, today.

Talking to students, he said that education is imperative for the development and progress of any country and only those nations have made progress who accorded top priority to their education sector.

The Speaker said that nation has lot of expectations from its youth and they should equip themselves of modern time technology and work hard to coup with challenges confronted to the country and to come up the expectations of the nation.

Later on, delegation was comprehensively briefed about the Constitutional history of the Parliament, Legislative practices as well as formation and functioning of the National Assembly and its Standing Committees.

The students evinced keen questions about the working of the Parliament and its committees which were replied by the Speaker. The students thanked the Speaker for facilitating them to visit National Assembly and arranging a comprehensive briefing for them.

NA Speaker to Act as President

Islamabad: February 18, 2014, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker, National Assembly would perform functions of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan under clause (2) of Article 49 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan w.e.f. 18th February, 2014. The Speaker, National Assembly would act as President till the President or Chairman Senate, returns to Pakistan from official visit abroad.

Women Parliamentarians Call for Synergies to Address Challenges of Girl Education, Maternal Health, Peace and Security

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 20: The Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) in partnership with CPA UK initiated a series of dialogues for Women Parliamentarians on topical issues. Initiated in 2012 with a trilogue between Afghanistan, Pakistan and UK Parliamentarians in London, this is a third of the series. The topic of current three day dialogue is regarding maternal health and education.

A five member women Parliamentary delegation from the UK headed by Lord Speaker H.E Baroness D'Souza, and a three member delegation from Afghanistan arrived in Islamabad to attend the dialogues starting 20th to 22nd February 2014.

Organized at the premises of Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services, Islamabad the inaugural session was chaired by former Speaker National Assembly and



Patron of the WPC Dr.Fehmida Mirza. In her welcome address, Dr. Mirza praised the joint efforts of the women parliamentarians in focusing on critical issues of common concern. She recalled the historic references of women's active participation in freedom movements and economic uplift of Europe after the second world war and noted that no nation could progress without the active participation of its women.

Dr. Mirza emphasized on creating synergies to highlight girl education, maternal and child health and said that these held great importance for the Region which was marred by terrorism and sabotage.

In her remarks, The Lord Speaker Baroness D'Souza thanked the Pakistani hosts for arranging the third round of meetings. She said that the inception of WPC was a hallmark and a role model for other Parliaments to follow suit.

These were followed by presentations from MNA Shaista Malik, the Secretary of the Caucus and Maryam Aurangzeb, the Parliamentary Secretary of Interiors, who focused on the working of the Caucus and the pace of MDG in Pakistan respectively.

Others who participated in the discussions included Senator RubinaRauf Khalid, NuzhatSadiq, Baroness Royall, Sharon Hodgson MP, Afghan MP FarkhundaNadri and KhawarMumtaz, besides others.

The consultations meetings will continue till 22nd February and will comprise of Parliamentarians, social activists and policy makers to present and share their thoughts.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker congratulate the newly Elected Office Bearers of Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHC-BA)

Islamabad; February 23, 2014: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly have congratulated the newly elected office bearers of Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHC-BA).

In their separate messages to the newly elected President of IHC-BA Raja Mohsin Akhtar Kiani, Vice President Mr Sarfraz Ali Khan and all other office bearers, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker extended their warmest felicitation on their success. They said that their election was an evidence of trust and confidence of Lawyer fraternity reposed in them.

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker hoped that they will work for welfare of Lawyer Community. They expressed the hope that under the new leadership the problems of lawyer's community would be resolved. They prayed for their success during their tenure.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker Condemn Bomb Blast at Buner

Islamabad; February 23, 2014: Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly have strongly condemned the killing of Mr. Adalat Khan, leader of the Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) in a bomb blast near Buner and expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives.



In their separate statements, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker termed it a barbaric and shameful act of terrorism. They said that the elements involved in such activities were the enemies of humanity and the country. They said that such shameful acts could not deter the Government from its firm resolve to fight against terrorism. They were confident

that the culprits involved in such activities will not be spared and will be brought to justice.

They prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the souls of martyred in eternal peace and sympathized with bereaved families and prayed for early recovery of injured.

PERSPECTIVE

Two Opposing Strands: Taliban and Sharia

Ashtar Hussain



It was one of my friends' villager who had escaped from the Taliban imprisonment after almost ninety days. He was talking to us in a miserable way, as he was unable to forget all the harsh things he had been to, while he was no more than skin and bones – a living skeleton. Suddenly during his discussion to us, he would start pressing his head in such a manner as he merely found himself alive. He was all frightened and lost.

According to him, in these ninety days they were kept in an area near to mountains, where they used to dig tunnels in the mountain from morning to evening. The food and tea were served in the disposable bottles, where they were not allowed to touch the utensils. In all these ninety days, according to him, they did not wash their hands, did not cut hair and never had a bath. The worst in all was that they did not have separate toilets while they used to do

everything in the same place where they lived, they ate and everything. Each night they were warned that two or three among them would be killed tomorrow, while the next morning they would be either shot or would be slaughtered in front of all, while after doing so, they would be asked to bury them in mud. According to him, after burying their prison mates with hand, having their hand with their blood, even then we could not wash our hands. In these ninety days, he said, we died more than ninety times.

According to him, if any among us would commit to a mistake, there would be a dig almost of fifteen feet where the person would keep his foots on one side while hands on another side, and then the Taliban would hit him on his back. If one got to fall, on one hand he would fall in that dig causing him severe injuries while on another hand the punishment was just doubled.



This is only one example; while there have been stories harsher than this one. People are got slaughtered while their videos are sent back to their families along with their dead bodies. They have played football with the cut heads of the soldiers. They have displayed the cut heads of the people on main chowks. They have degraded the dead bodies in all they could. They have put villages of minorities on fire. They have chopped down the human bodies into pieces. They have thrown people into water tiding them with stones. They have crashed their heads with heavy stones. In one suicide attack, how many are killed and how many are injured. Those killed on one side, but what about those disabled? They are paralyzed while they are no more productive in the society building. They are later considered a burden on the society while the society itself becomes a great burden on them. Tragedies are countless, while each boundary of human and humanity is demolished. Words become short explaining their cruelties.

In today's era we live a scary life in our surroundings where a person reciting "Allah o Akbar" is considered to be a suicide bomber. People with their beard are treated as terrorist both nationally as well as internationally. Masjids, Imam Bargah, Church, Schools, Markets and all other places are no more spared from their violence. Islam – the religion of peace – is

made as a religion of violence where except Taliban's, any other religion and any other sect is not acceptable. And the most heart breaking of them is that they talk about Sharia. Which Sharia they are talking about? Which religion they are following to? Which kind of religion they want to promote? What kind of humanity codes they want to establish? Is this Shariat-e-Muhammadi (SAWW) to degrade the humanity? There are so many other questions which arise in the mind of each and every Muslim and each and every human being.

If they are talking about Sharia, they must not forget the Preaching of the Holy Quran and they must not forget about the Holy life of our Holy Prophet (SAWW). Killing one mankind is same to kill the whole humanity. The life of our Holy Prophet (SAWW) itself teaches us how to treat with prisoners; how to deal with minorities; how to save women, children and elders people during wars; how to save the flora and fauna during wars; how to respect other religions; how to treat women and slaves; how to negotiate; and last but not the least, how to live life itself. In such circumstances if we think for a while, then one easily comes to the conclusion that what Taliban are doing is all against the teachings of Islam, while Taliban and Sharia, both are the opposing strands. They are simply the anti-mankind agents to blackmail the Holy religion of Islam.

(The author is a Young Parliamentary Associate at National Assembly of Pakistan)



Special Article

NATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Ch. Pervaiz Akhtar



Terrorism is not a new phenomenon. Its breath has always poisoned the history of humanity. However, it has evolved drastically in present century. Specially, after the 9/11 attacks, terrorism has become an international challenge. Many countries have been affected by the growing menace of terrorism. Pakistan has also been a victim of both domestic and international terrorism. Pakistan being a front line state against terrorism has extended full cooperation in the ‘War on Terror’ to the International Coalition Forces. This war has adversely affected Pakistan in term of loss of human lives including women and children. In fact, the number of casualties, Pakistan has suffered during the war on terror is much more than the collective casualties, it afforded during combat operations in 1965 and 1971 wars with India¹. According to data released by the US National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses for Terrorism (START), Pakistan led the chart with 1404 terrorist attacks in 2012, surpassing Iraq (1271). Even Afghanistan was behind Pakistan at number three with 1023 incidents.²

Despite the massive loss, Pakistan is committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and has undertaken to fully implement the United Nations resolutions on terrorism. It has historically supported all international proposals and agreements for peace and stability. It believes that terrorists have no religion and there can be extremists in all ideologies. Islam also teaches peace, moderation and cooperation.

What is terrorism?

Terrorism is defined as “an unlawful use of force or violence against a person, property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives”³. According to another definition, “criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.”⁴.

¹ Lawrance Ziring. (2005) Pakistan: At the crosscurrent of history. New Delhi: Manas Publication

² Dawn (Islamabad), 23 February 2014, (www.dawn.com/news/1088864/pakistan-most-terror-hit-nation)

³ <http://www.terrorism-research.com/>

⁴ United Nations Security Council resolution 1566 (2004)



It is basically an illness and psychological sickness. All powerful nations with expansionist ambitions for territorial aggrandizement and hegemonic designs always portray the freedom struggles as terrorism in wake of fear of breakaway. Islam teaches and preaches peace, tolerance, moderation as well as cooperation. Therefore, a great majority of Pakistani people never accepted terrorists. Pakistan, being a most responsible Islamic country, has proved internationally that Pakistan is neither the patron nor the collaborator of the terrorists, nor does it want to give them refuge.

Islam and terrorism

Islam, being a religion of mercy, does not permit terrorism. In the Holy Quran, God has said :{ **God does not forbid you from showing kindness and dealing justly with those who have not fought you about religion and have not driven you out of your homes. God loves just dealers.**} (Quran, 60:8)... The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) prohibited soldiers from killing women, children and old citizens. He used to advise the **soldiers by saying, “Do not betray, do not be excessive, do not kill a newborn child.”** And he also said: **“whoever has killed a person having a treaty with the Muslims shall not smell the fragrance of Paradise, though its fragrance is found for a span of forty years (travelling).”**⁵ The famous “Madina Agreement” is the best example of internal peace and counter terrorism strategy where all Muslims, Jews, non-believers as well as people of other cultures and ideologies were given a fair and transparent opportunity to live friendly and peacefully.

Cost of war

The people as well as the Government of Pakistan “have stayed the course against extremism and terrorism in the face of unending death and destruction. As the frontline ally in the international fight, Pakistan continues to pay a heavy price in blood, sweat, tears and economic losses - more than any other country in the world.”⁶ Pakistan’s economy has also suffered a massive loss. From last ten years the direct and indirect cost of war on terror incurred by Pakistan amounted to \$ 78 billion.⁷ The loss of lives is tabulated below.

Fatalities in Terrorist Violence in Pakistan 2003 to March 2, 2014

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists/Insurgents	Total
2003	140	24	25	189

⁵ <http://www.islam-guide.com/ch3-11.htm>

⁶ Promise Policy Performance, Two years of people’s Government 2008-2010, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of Pakistan, p. 54

⁷ Dawn (Islamabad), 23 February 2014, (www.dawn.com/news/1088864/pakistan-most-terror-hit-nation)



	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists/Insurgents	Total
2004	435	184	244	863
2005	430	81	137	648
2006	608	325	538	1471
2007	1522	597	1479	3598
2008	2155	654	3906	6715
2009	2324	991	8389	11704
2010	1796	469	5170	7435
2011	2738	765	2800	6303
2012	3007	732	2472	6211
2013	3001	676	1702	5379
2014	432	149	326	907
Total*	18588	5647	27188	51423

(Source: www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/pakistan/database/casualties.htm)

Steps taken to curb terrorism

Pakistan has taken some very important and pragmatic steps to curb the terrorism in last many years:-

- The Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance 2013, by replacing Anti-terrorism Act 1997 is a major step forward in the war against terrorism.
- Anti-terrorist Courts have been established which are bound to deliver speedy justice.



- Those organizations that were preaching extremism and directing the party members towards activities, which fall within the ambit of terrorism, have been banned and their assets have been seized.
- Proper registration and curriculum of religious institutions have been streamlined, bringing it nearer to the main educational system of the country.
- A country wide anti-illegal weapon campaign was carried out by the government.
- In order to deal with illegal immigrants, National Alien Registration Authority (NARA) has been set up in 2001 under the foreigners (Amendment) Ordinance 2000. The authority is responsible, for the registration of foreigners and issue of work permits to aliens seeking employment in Pakistan.
- Pakistan provides refugee status to only those foreigners who are registered with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.⁸
- Immigration laws have been made more stringent and immigration agency has been refurbished.
- Names of international terrorists have been placed on the Exit Control List.
- Police reforms have been taken to make the police force more effective by revamping police intelligence sections.
- Pakistan is sharing relevant information with all other countries fighting against the terrorism. Moreover, Pakistan has active liaison with the Interpol.
- To bring the Taliban on table, Government has allowed the security agencies to counter attack the terrorist's activities/attacks in recent days.
- Pakistan has held an all parties Conference and decided to hold peace talks with Taliban.

Military Operations and role of Parliament

Since, September 11, 2001 as well as the American attacks on Afghanistan, it was claimed that South Waziristan, right across the Pak-Afghan border, is a readily available hideout for Al-Qaeda and Taliban forces.⁹ Therefore, in February 2004, Pakistan has launched military operations in South Waziristan mainly in Wana against foreign elements and those, who supported the anti-state elements and destroyed a number of training facilities of the militants. Besides, local Parliamentarians both from the Senate and the National Assembly of Pakistan have also played a crucial role in securing peace and stability by holding traditional jirgas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province particularly in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with the help of local tribes.

⁸http://202.83.164.27/wps/portal/Moi/tut/p/c0/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os_hQN68AZ3dnIwMDRxdLAyMfCyMLEz9jY38fc_2CbEdFACbZ0IA!/?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/wps/wcm/connect/MoiCL/ministry/general/national+alien+registration+authority

⁹<http://www.cacianalyst.org/?q=node/1973>



In October 2008, Parliament of Pakistan, after extensive deliberations, has passed a unanimous resolution on 'National Security' in joint in-camera sitting. The Resolution reflected the Parliament's great concern that "extremism, militancy and terrorism in all forms and manifestations pose a grave danger to the stability and integrity of the nation-state", and called for "an urgent review of the national security strategy and revisiting the methodology of combating terrorism." Moreover, the Resolution also emphasized "that dialogue must now be the highest priority, as a principal instrument of conflict management and resolution. Dialogue will be encouraged with all those elements willing to abide by the Constitution of Pakistan and rule of law."

In December 2008, Swat, Dir and Buner districts of Malakand Division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province were captured by Taliban and there was no government writ. The terrorists banned education for girls and attacked on 170 schools along with other government properties. After the failure of agreements with local Taliban, in May 2009, Pakistan military again launched a successful operation against militants and restored peace and law and order in that region by August 2009.¹⁰

Balochistan was affected by terrorist incidents lately. In December 2009, Parliamentary Committee on Balochistan has presented its recommendations to the Parliament to improve political, economic, administrative as well as law and order situation in the Province. These recommendations have provided a comprehensive set of proposals titled 'Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan' (AHB) to alleviate the sense of deprivation and bring the province at par with other parts of the country.¹¹

National Security Policy

On 26th February 2014, the Government has presented a draft on National Internal Security Policy (NISP) before the National Assembly. According to the draft, the new national security policy will provide a strategic and operational mechanism to build capacity of national institutions and law enforcement agencies in addition to a framework for the government to hold dialogue with militants for maintaining law and order in the Country. Moreover, the new security policy envisages a focal position for the National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA) which is an independent body answerable directly to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. It was established in December 2009 by the previous government to reinforce all counter terrorism efforts. It would work as a think tank and conduct research, propose measures and to chalk out a National counter terrorism action plan after consulting all stakeholders. The NACTA will control 26 intelligence agencies in the country, including the ISI, MI and IB. Furthermore, the government will enhance security on western border, development of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and other border areas to bring people in the national mainstream.

¹⁰ Promise Policy Performance, Two years of people's Government 2008-2010, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of Pakistan, p.9

¹¹ Ibid, p.89



The Pakistan Protection Ordinance 2013

In Oct. 2013, the President of Pakistan on the advice of Prime Minister promulgated the Pakistan Protection Ordinance 2013 by declaring all peace-disrupting elements as 'enemies of the state' and making the protection of the life and property of citizens the primary goal of all state functionaries. Basically, the Ordinance will replace Anti-terrorism Act 1997. It includes over a dozen changes to the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 (XXVII of 1997), and will remain in force until passed by the Parliament. It guarantees all military and civil armed forces the full protection of law to discharge their mission to restore peace in the country within the parameters of the Constitution.

The Ordinance allows the government to constitute different joint investigation teams to conduct investigations into all heinous crimes. The ordinance also introduces measures to deal with refugees and foreign residents involved in terrorism, crime and other anti-state activities. Those involved in organized crime syndicates could also be transferred to another part of the country for trial to ensure transparency and fairness in proceedings.

According to the Ordinance, suspects can be held for up to three months, eight weeks longer than envisaged under the original Anti-Terrorism Act. Through another amendment, robust new measures will be adopted for the protection of witnesses, judges and prosecutors. The Ordinance also allows the use of text messages, telephone calls, emails etc. as evidence against suspected terrorists and in criminal cases, such as extortion, targeted killing and kidnappings for ransom.¹²

Role of Parliamentarians

- The role of parliamentarians in the affairs of society, the government and the state is increasing both in terms of their powers to legislate as well as to oversee the executive. Thus, parliamentarians play a pivotal role in determining the actions of the state. It is therefore, essential that the Parliament and Parliamentarians be closely involved in major initiatives of the government, especially on such vital issues as securing peace, security, stability and combating terrorism.
- The parliamentarians should form citizen forum in their constituencies to curb terrorism on self-help basis. In these forums the people of all walks of life (intellectuals, journalists, educationists, religious leaders, police officers, politicians etc.) should be involved. These may be replicated at provincial as well as national level after a real success.
- There is no single reason of terrorism. There are multifarious factors that work behind the act of terrorism. Therefore, the parliamentarians should join hands to ensure legislation to eradicate terrorism by bridging the wide and deep gulf between the haves and have-nots and to overcome social deprivation, economic problems and unemployment.

¹² http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1391322775_795.pdf



- Extensive legislation can be carried out to curb terrorism with the constituents to raise their awareness.
- Parliamentarians should work towards the adoption of legislative measures allowing for compensation of victims of terrorist acts, as an expression of national solidarity.

Policy Options

- As a first step, cooperation on security, intelligence and law enforcement matters must be strengthened between Federal and Provincial Governments. As a second step, transnational nature of terrorist activities as well as reported states sponsored terrorism may be realized.
- In countering terrorism, all Provincial Governments have an obligation to show firmness and take decisive and quick actions against terrorism.
- Anti-terror legislation must maintain a balance between security requirements and the respect of civil and political rights. The potential impact of such legislation in every related field will have to determine its potential implementation cost.
- Intelligence cooperation among all agencies must be improved to defuse terrorist activity at planning stage.
- New efforts may be made to fill loopholes and resolve the incompatibilities that are obstacles to national cooperation and the fight against terrorism.
- Structural changes must be undertaken to make police force more effective.
- The fight against the laundering of the money earned from criminal activities or corruption should be strengthened. This would help to expose the gang of financiers/sponsors of terrorism.
- The designated agencies may reinforce at the Government level to coordinate with all provincial law enforcement agencies and authorities dealing with countering terrorism financing.
- There is a need to adopt such remedial measures, which can tear down the conflict of fundamentalism, sectarianism, provincialism etc.
- Capacity-building of the agencies concerned should be undertaken through training and education.
- Security at the airports should be strengthened.
- Non-governmental organizations, free media and active religious leaders are important characteristic of vibrant societies to peacefully manage conflict as well as open communication and dialogue are vital to the peaceful and constructive resolution of tensions.
- Media have an access to people and gives a lot of strength to society. So, it should play important role in the building of a society by educating people through TV and radio programmes on terrorism and its impact.



- Terrorism is viewed in all its forms and manifestations as a grave threat not only to Pakistan but also global peace. Therefore, cooperation at bilateral, regional and international level may also be sincerely strengthened in order to combat terrorism.
- Sri Lanka's successful experience against the terrorism is a significant lesson and Pakistan has an option to replicate the strategy in North Waziristan. Their massive victory which amazed the entire world was achieved on a well-organized plan where, Government, Security Forces and People of all walks of life were involved against terrorism with full synchronization. Similarly, the previous Government has regained control of the troubled zone (Swat, Dir and Buner districts of Malakand Division) of KPK province in 2009 with full backing of all political forces inside and outside the Parliament.

Conclusion

At present, both the Pakistan Protection Ordinance and Pakistan National Security Policy are before the Parliament for discussion. Both Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan may contribute greatly through deliberations on various issues affecting national peace and security, particularly from the perspective of the fight against terrorism so that the Government may take effective action to mitigate this problem. The war against terrorism will not succeed unless the causes of terrorism are addressed. It is over simplification to say that fundamentalism, extremism, poverty, illiteracy, deprivation, social injustice etc. are the major factors contributing to the growth of terrorism. People from all walks of life like performers, producers, writers, artists, religious leaders, teachers, doctors etc. should take part to educate the people about the worst result of terrorism.

Last, but not the least that we Muslim should follow the true teachings of Islam and should lead a peaceful life, as desired by Islam and on humanitarian grounds all of us are ought to be kind to humanity. So, we should join hands against terrorism to save the humanity on self-help basis.

(The author is a researcher at Research Centre of National Assembly Secretariat)

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chief Editor: Ch. Mukhtar Ahmed (Director Research)

Editor: Sardar Ali Haidery (Research Officer)

Co-Editor: Munirullah Khan (YPA)

Programmer: Ehtisham-ul-Haq

Cameraman: Zafar Sultan