



The National Assembly of Pakistan Gazette



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Chief Editor's Note

The Honorable Speaker of National Assembly had a busy month. He led a delegation to Russia and met the Chairman State Duma of Russian Federation and Chairperson of Federation Council of Russian Federation. The leaders on both sides agreed to enhance the bilateral relationship and extend the cooperation in various fields. In various meetings, the Speaker pointed out that both the countries had similar views on various international issues and were already supporting each other in various global fora. He also emphasized the need of closer cooperation between Russia and Pakistan to effectively combat the menaces of drug trafficking and terrorism and to ensure peace and stability in post US withdrawal from Afghanistan as it was essential for the regional and global peace without which the full economic potential of the region could not be realized.

Pakistan also hosted two high profile Parliamentary Delegations from Bahrain and Sweden led by Chairman Council of Representatives, Kingdom of Bahrain H.E. Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al-Dhahrani and Speaker of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag) Mr. Per Westerberg respectively. Chairman Council of Representatives, Kingdom of Bahrain H.E. Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al-Dhahrani said that Pakistan is our second home and we are brotherly countries. "Pakistan's strength is Bahrain's strength and we want to see Pakistan strong and prosperous". Speaker of the Swedish Parliament Mr. Per Westerberg said that his country attaches great significance to Pakistan and would extend its all-out support to Pakistan for overcoming its prevalent challenges. These political engagements show the commitment of Pakistani leadership to build a democratic and soft image of Pakistan in the global community.

An important Budget Session of the Parliament is also around the corner. Here in National Assembly, all the departments are working hard to facilitate the budget session. We pray to Allah to make the budget a harbinger of economic progress and happiness for all Pakistanis in coming years. Ameen!

Thank You

Ch. Mukhtar Ahmed



LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Session

National Assembly was summoned by the President to meet on Monday, the 5th May 2014 at 4.00 p.m. It was the 11th Session of the First Parliamentary Year of the 14th National Assembly. The Session was prorogued on Friday, 16th May 2014. The important legislative business of the 11th Session during May 2014 is summarized below:

A. Bills

Bill Passed

No bills were passed during the 11th Session of the 14th National Assembly.

Government Bills Introduced

No Government Bills were introduced during the 11th Session.

Private Members Bills Introduced

Seven bills were introduced by private members in 11th Session of National Assembly:

1. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2014

In Chapter VII "Election Disputes", under section 54, the Returning Officer must also be included among the respondents to the election petition for his/her action. This will broaden the share of accountability and transparency in election procedures. A returning officer is a very important stake in this whole election procedure and must be held accountable as directly linked with the election complaints or any other business in

this regard. This will also ensure a very healthy and reformative procedure.

In addition to the above, presently, as per provision contained in sub-section (2) of section 57, an Election Tribunal shall consist of a person who has been, or is, or, at the time of his retirement as a District and Sessions Judge, was qualified to be, a Judge of a High Court.

Appointment of serving Judges of High Courts in the Tribunal has been a practice till 2008. But, unfortunately this practice was discontinued for unknown reasons. It would be more appropriate that a serving Judge is appointed to Tribunal instead of a retired judge.

2. The Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2014

In order to avoid defamation, agony, insult and discrimination, in Article 37, in paragraph (h), the words and commas "and, in the case of non-Muslims, religious purposes" shall be omitted.

3. The Compulsory Blood Test of the Relatives of Thalassaemia Patient Act, 2014

Thalassaemia is a dangerous disease which kills a large number of children in Pakistan every year. It is very much needed to take appropriate steps to stop further spread of this disease and arrange for proper care of those patients who have fallen victim of this disease.

4. The Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2014



With the widespread use of telephones, both landlines and mobiles, and the Internet, there is a rising trend to repeatedly annoy and criminally intimidate, harass and threaten the innocent users of the electronic gadgets by making obnoxious calls and sending obnoxious or harassing messages and pictures. Such calls and messages often cause undue hardship to the user of telephone, mobile and the Internet. Such trends should not only be checked but dealt with by apprehending such ill-intending persons and also by suitably punishing them to keep good order in the society.

5. The Suppression of Terrorist Activities (Special Courts) (Amendment) Act, 2014

With the widespread use of telephones, both landlines and mobiles, and the Internet, there is a rising trend to repeatedly annoy and criminally intimidate, harass and threaten the innocent users of the electronic gadgets by making obnoxious calls and sending obnoxious or harassing messages and pictures. Such calls and messages often cause undue hardship to the user of telephone, mobile and the Internet. Such trends should not only be checked but dealt with by apprehending such ill-intending persons and also by suitably punishing them to keep good order in the society.

6. The Child Protection System Bill, 2014

After the 18th Constitutional Amendment in 2010, the provinces have initiated process for their provincial legislation on child protection and welfare. The ICT do not have law/s on child protection and welfare. For these federating units, Article 142(d) of the Constitution provides exclusive power to the parliament to legislate for Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

The Child Protection System Act, 2014 for all these federal units is need of the hour as well as the Constitutional responsibility as provided in Article 25 and international obligation in light of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The safeguards provided in this Act will go a long way in protection of all children. This Act not only complies with the constitutional provisions but also fulfills our obligation under different international conventions in general and the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in particular.

7. The Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2014

The amendment is aimed to fill the gaps and remove lacunae and anomalies in the law in order provide protection from all forms of harassment at work without any gender discrimination. Through this amendment law, the scope of the definitions of harassment, employees, and employers has been enhanced to provide protection to a wide array of employees, workers in both the formal and informal sectors as well as to the students/ trainees, from all forms of harassment at work and in pursuit of studies / vocational training.

The amendment is in line with the constitutional and international commitments of the Government of Pakistan in particular the right to security of person, right to fair trial, inviolability of dignity, safeguard against discrimination, right to be free from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, equality before law, right to a fair hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, just and favorable conditions of work, safe and healthy working conditions and the right to



education as enshrined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and International instruments including International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, duly ratified by the Government of Pakistan.

B. Ordinances

Only one ordinance was laid in the month of May 2014, namely, The Federal Judicial Academy (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014.

C. Resolutions

The following eleven resolutions were moved in the National Assembly during the month of May.

1. Increase salaries of Employees (May 6 2014)

“This House is of the opinion that the Government should take steps to immediately make increase in the basic salaries of the Federal Government employees in proportion to price hike.”

2. Lift ban on Youtube (May 6, 2014)

“This House is of the opinion that the Government should take steps to lift ban on YouTube.”

3. Withdrawal of subsidy on commodities (May 13, 2014)

“This House is of the opinion that the Government may review the decision about withdrawal of subsidy on commodities of daily use in Gilgit-Baltistan.”

4. Resolution about Engineering University at Sialkot

“This House is of the opinion that the Government should take immediate steps to establish an Engineering University at Sialkot.”

5. No retrenchment of employees (May 13, 2014)

“This House is of the opinion that there should be no retrenchment of employees in any Government department.”

6. Polio Immunization Programme (May 13, 2014)

“The House unanimously resolves that the Polio immunization program may be implemented urgently to ensure that Pakistan is made free of this debilitating disease as soon as possible. All members of this Assembly also commit themselves to monitor and implement this program in their respective areas of influence and constituencies.”

7. National Assembly resolves to extend the Protection of Pakistan (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 (May 14, 2014)

“That the National Assembly resolves to extend the Protection of Pakistan (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 (No. I of 2014) for a further period of one hundred and twenty day w.e.f. 22nd May, 2014 under proviso to sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of clause (2) of Article 89 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.”

8. National Assembly resolves to extend the Gas (Theft Control and Recovery) Ordinance, 2014 (May 14, 2014)

“That the National Assembly resolves to extend the Gas (Theft Control and Recovery) Ordinance, 2014 (Ord.No.II of



2014) for a further period of one hundred and twenty days w.e.f. 23rd May, 2014 under proviso to sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of clause (2) of Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

9. The House appreciates the young champions who won bronze medal in Street Child World Cup 2014 (May 14, 2014)

"This House recognizes and expresses its appreciation for the 9 young champions who brought a ray of hope for us all and won our hearts when they raised our National Flag in the famous football grounds in Brazil. They won the bronze medal in Street Child World Cup 2014 against all odds. This House recognizes their efforts and passion for their country and noting their message with deep concern that children living and/or working on streets are a hidden treasure of this great nation which needs protection and grooming. They have come to us bearing the gift of revived national pride in football and asking this House to give rights and protect children living and/or working on streets in return.

This House recommends to the Provincial governments to develop and implement a social protection policy for children living and/or working on streets of Pakistan in consultation with the civil society as a framework document and also recommends to develop and implement a plan of action with clearly defined goals to take concrete actions to create a protective environment for children living and/or working on streets in Pakistan.

10. National Assembly expresses its grief over the death of coal mine workers in Turkey (May 15, 2014)

"This House expresses its immense grief over the death of more than 270 coal mine workers as a result of an explosion in a mine in Turkish town of Soma on Tuesday May 13, 2014, extend the deepest sympathies to the families whose loved ones have died and are injured in this tragic accident. And it hopes and prays for the safe rescue of around 120 workers still trapped in the mine, and expresses solidarity with its Turkish brethren at their time of mourning and urges the Government to extend all assistance to the Turkish Government in dealing with the tragedy."

11. The House condemns the attack on holy places of minorities (May 15, 2014)

"This House strongly condemns the attack on holy places of minorities especially Dharmshalas in Larkana, Hanuman temple Fateh chok Hyderabad, Parbraham Ashram Verijhap, District Tharparkar and also martyrdom of shrimad Baghwat Geeta and Shiri Guru Granth Sahib at Madeji District Shikarpur within two months. This House resolves that necessary steps be taken on priority basis by the Government to safe guard the holy places of minorities. This House urges the Government that the holy places must be registered forthwith and special security personnel is deployed there to prevent any such incidents in future. This Resolution is moved jointly by all political parties"



CALLS ON

Revival of Economy and Creation of Investment Conducive Environment; Topmost Priority of the Present Government: Says NA Speaker

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly has said that the revival of economy and creating conducive environment for investment is on the top of the agenda of the present democratic government. He also said that investment friendly policies of the government has built up the trust of the investors and generated economic activities in the country. He expressed these views while meeting with a delegation of the Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Chamber of Commerce & Industry headed by Mr. Zahid Ullah Shinwari, President KPCCI in Parliament House, on 9th May.

The Speaker said that present Parliament consists of progressive forces, a vibrant opposition which is playing a constructive role in the Parliament. He said that both the sides of aisle are on the same page on issues of national importance and concerning masses.

The Speaker said that the award of GSP-Plus is a good omen for Pakistan's economy and will strengthen the economic condition of the country as well as provide more jobs. "I am proud to share with you that GSP-Plus status to Pakistan by the European Union is the landmark achieved by the diplomatic interactions, parliamentary diplomacy and government's effort" he added. The Speaker said that the business community was the back bone of the economy of the country and was playing a pivotal role and job creation and progress and prosperity of the country.

The delegation informed the Speaker that the law and order situation, load shedding of electricity and gas has impeded the production capacity of the industrial sector. They said that

the law and order situation has resulted in flight of capital from Khyber Pukhtunkhwa. They suggested that government should provide tax concessions, incentive and upgradation of power and communication infrastructure for attracting investment in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa.

The Speaker assured the business community that the Parliament and the government would extend every possible help to the business community and traders for smooth and effective business and trade activities. He said that undoubtedly Khyber Pukhtunkhwa suffered a lot due to insurgency in the country. He said that steps taken by the government would root out the menace from the country.

Former Presidents KPCCI Mr. Ilyas Bilour, Mr. Muhammad Taimoor Shah, Mr. Niaz Ahmad, Vice President KPCCI Mr. Muhammad Shafiq and other members of the Chamber were also present in the meeting.

Pakistan's Street Children Football Team Met the Honorable Speaker

The Pakistan's street children football team which won third place in the recently held World Cup, met the Honorable Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at his Chamber, on May 14.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq appreciated the team's spirit and efforts to bring recognition to Pakistan at the International level and encouraged them to raise their game to Pakistan Eleven and should aim to represent the country abroad at International competitions. The Speaker briefed the team on the working of National Assembly and the team was given conducted tour as well.

The team management appreciated the interest and efforts of the government in improving the condition of sports and football in particular. Federal Minister for sports Mr. Riaz Peerzada also accompanied the team and thanked the Honourable Speaker Sardar. Ayaz Sadiq for his



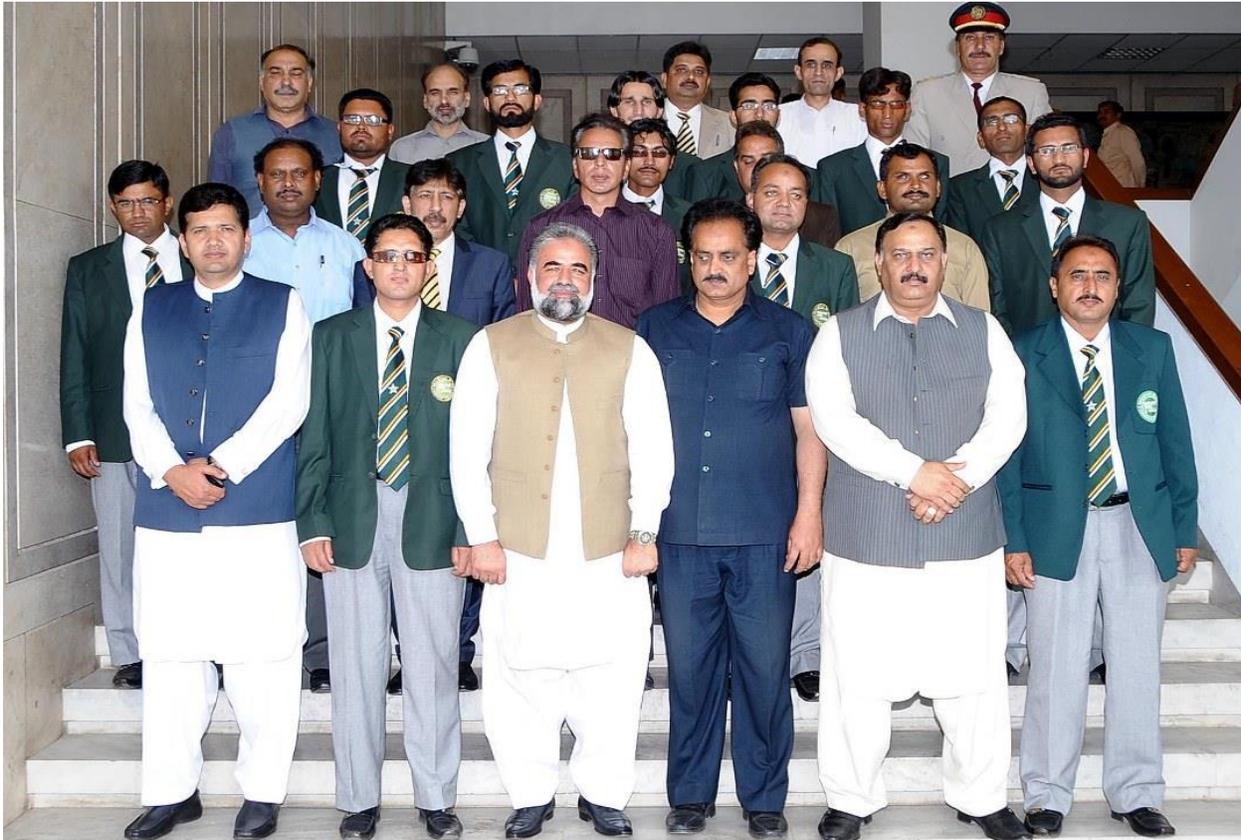
personnel and keen interest in improving the prospects of football in the country.

Pakistan Blind Cricket Team Calls on Deputy Speaker, NA

The Pakistan's Blind National eleven visited the National Assembly on 14th May, on the invitation of Deputy Speaker Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi. On arrival, the team was welcomed by Honorable Murtaza Javed Abbasi, along with

other senior officers of the National Assembly Secretariat.

The Honorable Deputy Speaker lauded victories of the team and encouraged them to further improve their game. The team was accompanied by officials of Blind Cricket Association. The Deputy Speaker exchanged pleasantries with the members of team and later on hosted a lunch in their honor.



Group Photo of Deputy Speaker NA Murtaza Javed Abbasi, with Pakistan Blind Cricket Team in Parliament House on 14.5.2014

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NA Business Advisory Committee Discussed Agenda for the 11th Session of the National Assembly The House Business Advisory Committee of the National Assembly met in Parliament House, on May 5, 2014, with Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in the chair to

discuss the business for the 11th Session of the National Assembly.

After discussion, it was decided that the current session of the National Assembly will continue till 16th May, 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, calling attention notices and discuss law and order situation and power outages in the country apart from legislation during the current session.

The meeting was attended by Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir, Minister for

from European Union Assistance Program, United Nations Development Program, German Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and Manzil Pakistan, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Convener Speaker's Task Force, and Secretary National Assembly attended the meeting.

While reviewing the progress on the activities



Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly, chairing the meeting of Business Advisory Committee at Parliament House on 05.05.2014

Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs/Chief Whip of the Pakistan Muslim League (N), Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Inter-Provincial Coordination, Jam Kamal Khan, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Resources, MNAs; Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, Ch. Muhammad Ashraf, Ms. Shaista Pervez, Mr. Shahab-ud-Din Khan, Syed Naveed Qamar, Dr. Arif Alvi, Mr. Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan, Sheikh Salahuddin and Sahibzada Tariq Ullah.

NA Speaker Chairs Meeting to Review the Partner Projects Assistance with Development Partners

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq chaired a meeting in Parliament House, on 15th May afternoon to review the progress on the "Partner Projects Assistance" with the Development Partners. The Representatives

assigned to different development partners, the Speaker said that it was encouraging to see the commitment of the international development partners for assisting the democratic institution in Pakistan to make them vibrant and more responsive to the needs of the masses. He said that with the consistent cooperation from the development partners, the tasks would be achieved in the stipulated time.

The Representatives of the respective Institutions individually apprised the Speaker about the tasks assigned to them. The Representative of EU informed that the 2nd phase of IP3 project would be launched during 3rd week of May, 2014 whereby a batch of Young Parliamentary Associates would be in place for assisting parliamentarians and committee Chairs. He also informed about the performance evaluation and need assessment of Library, Research and Committee Wings of the Secretariat. He assured that the report would be submitted shortly to the Project Management Unit of the National Assembly.



The UNDP Representative apprised about the Capacity Review Analysis of the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS) and its affiliation with International Think Tank

assessment reports in order to launch the Strategic Framework Plan for the National Assembly during next month. He said that their help would enhance the capacity of the



Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker NA presiding over a meeting with the Development Partners at Parliament House on 15-05-2014

Panel for enhancing Research and capacity Building capabilities of PIPS. She also informed about the Job evaluation of entire Human Resource of National Assembly and details on establishment of a Legislative Council comprising prominent legislators, legal experts and intellectuals for assisting Members of the Parliament in Legislative drafting and other legislative matters.

The Representatives of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and Manzil Pakistan apprised the meeting about the tasks assigned to their respective organizations. They assured that the reports on the task assigned to them would be completed soon and submitted to the Project Management Unit for further consideration.

The Speaker thanked the participants and reassured his and his Secretariat's support in achieving the targets within their timelines. He asked the Representatives of the development partners to expedite their

parliamentarians and parliamentary support staff.

Meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

A meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held on 15-05-2014 at 3:00 p.m in Constitutional Room, in National Assembly Secretariat, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, MNA. The Chairman Standing committee welcomed the H.E. Ambassador of China and highlighted Pak-China bilateral relations and invited him to give his input in this regard.

2. H.E. Mr. Sun Weidong, Ambassador of China, thanked the Chairman Standing committee on Foreign Affairs, for inviting him in the august committee and gave the opportunity to address the Foreign Affairs Committee. He gave a comprehensive briefing



on Pak-China relations which have been established for the last 63 years and are strengthening day by day. This friendship is an example for the other nations in the world. He informed that China is at present coordinating with Pakistan in the following sectors:-

- i. Energy crises.
- ii. Water management.
- iii Agriculture Sector
- iv. Communication Sector
- v. Defence.

3. The Ambassador of China emphasized on people to people contact in order to strengthen the relations between the two nations. He further informed that Jinnah Solar Energy Park at Bahawalpur and thermal Power Plant in Sindh has already been launched with the collaboration of China and the Solar Energy Park at Bahawalpur will generate 100 Megawatt electricity and these projects are environment friendly. In the end he said that China will not going to be a second super power and our foreign policy is based on peaceful relation with the other nations in the world. He also emphasized that the people of Pakistan should learn the Chinese language as Chinese is the second largest language in the world. Two institutions are established in Pakistan where Chinese language is taught.

4. Members of the Committee appreciated the H.E. Ambassador of China on giving comprehensive presentation on Pak-China bilateral relationship and reiterated their commitment to continue such brotherly relationship in future. The Members of the Committee also appreciated the Government of People's Republic of China for assisting Pakistan in various fields especially in defence.

5. The meeting was also attended by MNAs Mr. Daniyal Aziz, Mian Muhammad Asim Nazir, Sahibzada Muhammad Nazeer Sultan, Mian Najeebuddin Awaisi, Mr.

Muhammad Khan Daha, Makhdoom Khusru Bakhtyar, Ms. Marvi Memon, Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan, Syed Asghar Ali Shah, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi, Dr. Shireen Mehrunnisa Mazari, Mr. Ghous Bux Khan Mahar, Mr. Mehmood Khan Achakzai and Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao and senior Officers/Officials from Ministry of Foreign.

Meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on the Appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the National Commission for Human Rights

Meeting of the "Parliamentary Committee on the Appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the National Commission for Human Rights" was held on 20th May at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room No. 2, Parliament House, Islamabad.

Mr. Mohammad Riaz, Acting Secretary, National Assembly Secretariat welcomed the Members. The Parliamentary Committee appointed Senator Syed Mazaffar Hussain Shah as the Convener of "Parliamentary Committee on the Appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the National Commission of Human Rights" to finalize the draft Rules of the Committee. The Convener of the Committee thanked the members for appointing him as a Convener of the Committee.

Dr. Nafeesa Shah, MNA attended the meeting.

Meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on the Appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the National Commission for Human Rights

Meeting of the "Parliamentary Committee on the Appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the National Commission for Human Rights" was held on May 21, at 10:30 a.m. in Committee Room No. 7, Parliament House, Islamabad.



The meeting was presided over by Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, Convener of the Parliamentary Committee; to finalize the draft Rules and conducting of election of its

Meeting of NA Standing Committee on Water and Power

A meeting of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Water and Power was held under



Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, Convener, chairing the meeting of Parliamentary Committee on Appointment of Chairperson and Members of the National Commission for Human Rights at Parliament House on 21.05.2014

Chairman.

The Parliamentary Committee adopted the draft Rules with amendments of the Parliamentary Committee on Appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the National Commission for Human Rights.

Thereafter, the Acting Secretary, National Assembly Secretariat apprised the Committee Members about the procedure of the election of the Chairman. Senator Kamil Ali Agha proposed the name of Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, as the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee and Dr. Nafisa Shah, MNA seconded the proposal. Accordingly, Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah was declared unanimously / unopposed elected Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha and Dr. Nafisa Shah, MNA attended the meeting.

the Chairmanship of Mr. Muhammad Arshad Khan Laghari, MNA in Committee Room No.7, Parliament House, Islamabad on 21st May to discuss the following agenda.

- i. Demand/ supply of DISCOs during the current year.
- ii. Feeder-wise losses of the DISCOs.
- iii. Urban and Rural Load-shedding schedule of the DISCOs.
- iv. Current year and backlog of receivables of the DISCOs.

2. The Secretary, Ministry of Water and Power told the Committee that the load shedding in whole of the country has improved considerably, and that has been done on the specific directions of the Prime Minister; as additional gas and oil has been given to the power plants and IPPs in order to give relief to the masses.



3. Chief Executive Officers of all the DISCOs in the country briefed the Standing Committee about working of their respective

Ministry and its attached departments. The meeting adjourned with vote of thanks to and



Mr. Muhammad Arshad Khan Leghari, Chairman Standing Committee on Water and Power, chairing the Committee meeting at Parliament House on 21.05.2014

distribution companies (DISCOs). The Committee was also told that 100% recovery has been made possible in Punjab and KPK provinces for the past one year and the recovery issue has also been taken with AJK, Government of Balochistan and Government of Sindh. The Chairman and the members of the Standing Committee also asked the Minister for Water and Power to make himself available for the forthcoming meeting of the National Assembly to give his input on important matters. The Standing Committee also directed that the schedule of load shedding must be displayed at the offices of all SDOs in all DISCOs and this schedule must also be given to Parliamentarians. The Committee also showed displeasure on the non-cooperative attitude of officers in certain Governments Departments.

4. The meeting was attended by MNAs Malik Itebar Kan, Rana Afzaal Hussain, Rana Muhammad Ishaq Khan, Pir Muhammad Aslam Bodla, Nawab Muhammad Yousaf Talpur, dr. Mahreen Razaque Bhutto, Junaid Akbar, Rai Hassain Nawaz Khan, Syed Waseem Hussain, Syed Kazim Ali Shah, Mr. Abdul Rahim Khan Mandokhail, Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqub, Secretary, Ministry of Water and Power, CEOs of all DISCOs and other senior officers of the

from the chair.

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Railways

A Standing Committee Meeting on Railways was held here on 26th May at Railway Headquarters chaired by Syed Naveed Qamar. The meeting discussed matters pertaining to railway land encroachment across the country and any previous item from the last meeting. During the meeting, Federal Minister for Pakistan Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said the department had initiated a project in collaboration with Punjab Urban Unit (PUU) to computerize railways land record.

The minister said that certain areas like revamping of legal department, ongoing targeted operations and to purse pending cases in courts should seriously be focused to improve the working of the department. He informed the committee about steps taken by the department to stop the recurrence of encroachment on railway land. He suggested that sub-committees should be formed for a quick solution to different issues related to railways.

The minister said that PR would get over Rs 39 billion as its budget and hoped that the department would meet all its requirements from



the amount. The chairman asked the department to hold a meeting after three months to brief it about expenditures.

PR Police IG Ibne Hussain said that 688 persons were arrested on charges of encroachment on railway lands. Locomotives Chief Mechanical Engineer (CME) Tariq Khan also briefed the members of the committee about the working of locomotives imported from China. Later, Syed Naveed Qamar while talking to the media after visiting Loco shop at Mughalpura said that 14 engines had arrived from China and they would start working smoothly within their warranty period.

He said that Chinese engineers had reached Pakistan and more would come soon to monitor the functioning of the locos and remove minor problems. To a question, Naveed Qamar said that a committee had been formed to monitor the working of the railways above party politics. He also welcomed the prime minister's visit to India.

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Human Rights

The Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Human Rights met today under the Chairmanship of Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk, MNA in the Parliament House, Islamabad on May 26, to consider the Constitution (Amendment) Bills, 2014, moved by Molana Ameer Zaman, MNA, and for the comprehensive Briefing on the working/performance of the Human Rights Wing.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014 moved by Molana Ameer Zaman, MNA was regarding the establishment of High Court Bench at Loralai to facilitate the people of seven Districts by providing speedy and prompt justice. The Committee appreciated the objective of the mover and recommended to invite comments from the Government and Chief Justice of Baluchistan. Thereafter, the bill is

deferred for further discussion in the forthcoming meeting.

The Secretary M/O Law, Justice & Human Rights informed the committee that the basic function of the Human Rights wing is to monitor Human rights situation/violation. Furthermore, an autonomous National commission on the status of women under National commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012 has been established for the promotion of social, economic, political and legal rights of women in the country. Human rights Wing is responsible to coordinate implementation and reporting of International Human Rights Conventions/Treaties in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders:

The meeting was attended by MNAs, Chaudhary Ms. Kiran Haider, Mr Muhammad Ayaz Soomro, Engr. Ali Muhammad Khan Advocate, Mr S A Iqbal Quadri, Moulana Muhammad Khan Sherani and Munaza Hassan.

Meeting of the Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research

Meeting of the Standing Committee on National Food, Security and Research held on 28th May at 10:30 a.m. in Committee Room No.7, 4th Floor. Parliament House, Islamabad, under the Chairmanship of Malik Shakir Bashir Awan, MNA to discuss the detail briefing on Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department and Fisheries Development Board

2. The Secretary, Ministry of National Food, Security and Research apprised the Committee that the mandate and functions of the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department is to provide for controlling and regulating the quality of seed of various varieties of crops and for matters connected therewith, also controlling the quality of seed, registration of growers, certification of seeds, issuance of certification of tags for accepted seed lots etc.

3 He also apprised the Committee about the Fisheries Development Board, its potential and



importance. This Board was established in 2007, This Board introduced aquaculture and shrimp farming, Tilapia farming, cage fish farming etc. Export potential of Pakistani aquaculture is expected to be more than 2 billion US \$, if this sector is supported by the government.

4. He brief the Committee that there are 28 Seed Certification Labs functioning in the country while the main Lab is in Islamabad. Further it was also informed that about 586 challans were registered against the illegal and un-authorized seed sellers in different parts of country and about 30,000 kg seed was confiscated from them. The Committee strongly recommended for legislation against the illegal and low quality seed sellers and also the challan charges may be enhanced with imprisonment

The meeting was attended by, Capt. (R) Muhammad Safdar, Ch. Nazeer Ahmed, Ch. Iftikhar Nazeer, Mr Tahir Iqbal Ch., Rao Muhammad Ajmal Khan, Syed Iftikhar-ul

Committee unanimously passed a resolution condemning the incident of damaging 3 Mandirs in Kot Ghulam Muhammad, District Mir Pur Khas, Sindh by unidentified persons. The Committee termed it an attempt to ruin the feelings of all Hindu Community and recommended that Ministry may take up the issue at appropriate forum for the proper investigation so that culprits could be penalized accordingly.

The Committee expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of Evacuee Trust Property Board as the income of said Board was being utilized for other proposes instead of the welfare of the minorities. The Committee also expressed concern over the non-inclusion of any elected Member from the Minority and proposed that Mr. Lal Chand Malhi, MNA may be included in its board.

The Committee also directed the ministry to provide District wise detail of the property



Malik Abdul Ghaffar Dogar, MNA, Convener Chairing the Committee meeting of Standing Committee on Religious Affairs & Inter-faith Harmony at Parliament House on 30.05.2014

Hassan, Ms. Shahnaz Saleem, Mr Faqir Sher Muhammad Bilalani, Mr. Muhammad Salaman Khan Baloch and Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, MNAs, beside senior Officers from Ministry of National Food Security and Research, D.G. PARC also.

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs & Inter-faith Harmony

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony was held at Parliament House on 30th May. The

owned by ETPB along with its revenue generated from the said properties to the Committee before the next meeting.

The following MNAs, Sahibzada Faiz-ul-Hassan, Mr. Bhawan Das, Ms. Asiya Naz Tanoli, Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali, Mr. Ramesh Lal, Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan, Mr. Lal Chand Malhi, Bismillah Khan, Molvi Agha Muhammad MNAs, attended the meeting.



FOREIGN VISITS AND DELEGATIONS

Chairman Council of Representatives Warmly Welcomed in Islamabad

A five member Bahraini Parliamentary Delegation led by Chairman Council of Representatives, Kingdom of Bahrain H.E. Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al-Dhahrani arrived at Benazir Bhutto International Airport, Islamabad on May 5, 2014. The delegation is on a three

Bahrain Parliamentary Friendship Group Pir Shafqat Hussain Shah Jillani and senior officials of the National Assembly Secretariat received the delegation.

While talking to the Chairman Council of Representatives, Kingdom of Bahrain, Deputy Speaker said that Bahrain and Pakistan are bonded in the eternal ties of religion, culture &



NA Deputy Speaker Murtaza Javed Abbasi receiving H.E. Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al-Dhahrani Chairman of the Council of Representatives, Kingdom of Bahrain at Benazir Bhutto Airport Islamabad on 5.05.2014

days official visit to Pakistan.

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi along with Convener of Pak-

history and there is commonality of views and perceptions of both the countries on all regional and global issues. He also expressed the need for



increase of contacts between the Parliamentarians and political leadership of the two countries as well as people to people contact.

Chairman Council of Representatives, Kingdom of Bahrain H.E. Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al-Dhahrani said that Pakistan is our second home and we are brotherly countries. “Pakistan’s strength is Bahrain’s strength and we wanted to see Pakistan strong and prosperous”, he said. He said that Bahrain also values high its relations with Pakistan and wanted to further strengthen the bilateral relations.

Parliamentary Diplomacy to Bring Pakistan and Bahrain Closer: Says NA Speaker

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Chairman Council of Representatives, Kingdom of Bahrain H.E. Khalifa Bin Ahmad

Parliamentary contacts. Both the leaders stressed need for bilateral relations to grow further.

The Bahraini parliamentary delegation led by H. E. Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al-Dhahrani was on a three day visit to Pakistan on the invitation of Speaker, National Assembly. The delegation visited Parliament House and witnessed the proceedings of the National Assembly. Later the delegation called on Speaker on May 6, where both sides discussed the issues of mutual interest.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan values its relations with Bahrain which are based on shared religious and historic cultural values. He remarked that a regular exchange of high level visits would play an important role in further strengthening of existing relations. He also underscored the need for



H.E. Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al-Dhahrani, Chairman Council of Representatives Kingdom of Bahrain, called on Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly in Parliament House on 06.05.2014

Al-Dhahrani agreed to further strengthen the warm relations between Pakistan and Bahrain through enhancing people-to-people and

enhancing investment and economic cooperation between the two countries. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called for greater cooperation in economic and manufacturing



sectors for mutual benefits of both the countries.

The Speaker highlighted the efforts of the government of Pakistan to eliminate extremism and terrorism from the country. He credited the progressive forces in the Parliament for forging joint strategy to tackle this menace. He also urged for the unity amongst Muslim Ummah to overcome the problems confronting it. He informed their counterpart about the formation of Pak-Bahrain Friendship Group in National Assembly of Pakistan. He said that interaction between parliamentarians of both the countries would improve the existing relations besides providing opportunities for exchanging views, sharing experiences and best practices.

Chairman Council of Representatives H.E. Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al-Dhahrani termed relations between the two sides as historic and unique. He appreciated the remarks of the Speaker and said that Bahrain considers Pakistan as its brother and wants to further cement the ties through rejuvenating parliamentary contacts and exploring possible avenues of economic cooperation. He said that Bahrain strongly desires to see a prosperous, stable and economically vibrant Pakistan. He praised role of Pakistani expatriates in Bahrain's economic activity. The Chairman also expressed that Bahrain will extend all-out support to its Pakistani brethren. He invited Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to visit Bahrain which he accepted. He agreed with the Speaker and said that unity amongst the ranks of Muslim Ummah would help to counter the problems.

Later, both the Leaders attended the meeting of Pak-Bahrain Friendship Group. They

agreed that the interaction between parliamentarians from both sides should continue for exploring avenues of cooperation. It was also agreed that the discourse between the parliamentarians was the best way to share views, best practices and experiences.

The Speaker National Assembly along with the delegation offered Zuhr Prayers in the Parliament Mosque. The Speaker also hosted a lunch in honour of the Bahraini delegation which was attended by Ministers and Parliamentarians.

Swedish Delegation Accorded Warm Welcome

A twenty member Swedish delegation comprising parliamentarians and leading businessmen led by Speaker of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag) Mr. Per Westerberg arrived at Nur Khan Airbase, Islamabad on May 18. The delegation was on a three days official visit to Pakistan.

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi along with Convener of Pak-Swedish Parliamentary Friendship Group Muhammad Khan Daha and senior officials of the National Assembly Secretariat received the delegation.

While welcoming the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Deputy Speaker said that Pakistan attaches immense importance to Sweden and wants to take the existing warm relations between the two countries to new heights through parliamentary and economic cooperation. He also suggested for exploring other avenues of cooperation between the two countries.

Speaker of the Swedish Parliament Mr. Per Westerberg said that his country also attaches great significance to Pakistan and would extend its all-out support to Pakistan for overcoming its prevalent challenges. He



expressed his country's desire to utilize huge economic and human resource potential in

the countries to new heights. He also stressed the need for frequent interaction between Pakistani



Pakistan for mutual benefit.

Speakers of National Assembly and Rikstag (Swedish Parliament) Agree To Boost up Parliamentary and Economic Cooperation between Pakistan and Sweden

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Speaker of the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament) Mr. Per Westerberg have agreed to boost up parliamentary and economic ties between Pakistan and Sweden. They also agreed that parliamentary and economic engagement would bring Pakistan and Sweden closer. The Swedish Speaker called on Speaker National Assembly in Parliament House, on May 19, along with a parliamentary delegation. The Convener of Pak-Sweden Parliamentary Friendship Group Mr. Mohammad Khan Daha, MNA was also present during the call on.

The Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq underscored the need for regular interaction between political leadership, parliamentarians and business communities of both the countries that would take the existing bilateral relations between both

and Swedish Parliamentarians to exchange views and experiences. He said that we could learn a lot from our Swedish colleagues since they had 600 years of democratic history and experiences.

Talking about the democracy in Pakistan, he said that democracy has taken roots and present parliament consists of progressive political forces. He said that parliament in the country is vibrant and have exhibited a record unanimity on issues of vital national interests. The Speaker said that the recent smooth transition of power from one elected government to another is a great motivation for strengthening of the democratic institutions in Pakistan.

He said that revival of economy through investment favorable policies and enhancing trade with foreign countries is the top most priority of the government. The Speaker said that present government has created favorable environment for foreign investment by introducing various incentives and reforms in the economic sector. He said that energy generation, telecommunication, oil exploration,



trade and manufacturing sectors have huge scope therefore; Swedish investors should invest in these sectors. He said that Pakistan greatly values its relations with Sweden and the investments by its government and its private sector. He praised the significant contribution of Swedish companies operating in Pakistan's

utilizing that untapped potential. Appreciating Pakistan's sacrifices in fight against terrorism, the Swedish Speaker assured that Sweden had and would support Pakistan in future to deal with crisis confronting its progress and prosperity.

The Swedish Speaker agreed with Sardar Ayaz



Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker NA, shaking hand with H.E. Per Westerberg, Speaker of Swedish Riksdag (Parliament) in Parliament House on 19.05.2014

Sadiq and said that parliamentary engagement between the two parliaments would fortify the existing amiable relations between the two countries. He said that Rikstag would embark on a realistic and issue driven program for enhancing cooperation between both the parliaments. He appreciated the

economy. He also apprised the Swedish Speaker about his recently introduced initiatives for making National Assembly more vibrant and responsive to the masses.

The Speaker said that Pakistan appreciates Swedish support to Pakistan for attaining GSP plus status and EU's Autonomous Trade Preferences for Pakistan (ATPs). He said that Pakistan has badly been affected by the insurgency resulting in disruption of economic activity in the country, however, the award of GSP+ status to Pakistan by European Union was a step forward for generation of economic activity in the country.

Reciprocating the gesture of his counterpart, Speaker of the Riksdag Mr. Per Westerberg said that Sweden also considers Pakistan its closest friend and economic partner. He said that Swedish business community was aware of the huge economic potential that exists in Pakistan, therefore, have expressed its keenness for

personal determination of the Speaker for initiating practical measures for deepening the relations between Pakistan and Sweden. He assured the Speaker that engagement between parliamentarians would actively continue in the days ahead. He said that this visit helped him and his colleagues to see the reality about Pakistan. He also agreed for enhancing economic cooperation in diverse fields. He also presented an invitation to Speaker to visit Sweden.

Later on, the Speaker visited the National Assembly Hall and saw the historic photos exhibited in the Parliament House. The Secretary National Assembly briefed the delegation about the working of the Parliament and its Standing Committees.



Meeting of the Swedish Parliamentary Delegation and members of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WCP)

A Parliamentary delegation of Swedish Parliamentarians headed by the Speaker of the Riksdag (Sweden Parliament) Mr. Per Westerberg met members of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WCP) on 20th May. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary WPC, MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik.

Secretary WPC and the Speaker of Sweden agreed to bilateral cooperation and exchange on gender-issues between both countries. Talking about contribution of Women's Parliamentary Caucus in Pakistan Ms. Malik briefed the delegation that the Caucus has been playing a crucial role in uplifting women of the country and accentuating gender-sensitive issues.

Women parliamentarians from all major political parties of Pakistan participated in the meeting. Issues related to health, education and women's political empowerment in both the countries were also discussed.

Swedish and Pakistani Parliamentarians Agree on Exchange of Views and Experiences to Reinforce Bilateral Relations

The Speaker of the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament) Mr. Per Westerberg has said that his country cherishes and wants to solidify its friendship with Pakistan. He was addressing the members of the Pak- Swedish Friendship Group in National Assembly along with the delegation of Swedish Parliamentarians in the Parliament House, on 20th May.

He said that Swedish Legislature is keen to work closely with Parliament of Pakistan through strengthening parliamentary contacts. His country also attaches immense values to its relations with Pakistan and wants to further enhance existing ties through enhancing people-to-people contact and economic cooperation

between both the countries, he added. He assured that his country has also vast expertise in telecommunication, automobile and other sectors and Pakistan could also benefit from that.

Mr. Jonas Hafstrom, Ambassador and Special Advisor to the Ministry of Trade said that Sweden appends enormous importance to its relations with Pakistan and needs to further cement those through enhanced cooperation between the legislatures and business community of both the countries. He also assured that his country will continue its unflinching support to Pakistan in diverse fields. Convener of Pak-Swedish Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly Muhammad Khan Daha emphasized the need for strengthening relationship between the parliamentarians, businessman and people of both the countries for further reinforcing the relations between the two countries. He said that parliamentarians of the two sides could play a meaningful role as "parliamentary diplomacy could enable the real policy makers to understand each-others' points of view, better. He appreciated the Swedish delegation's keen interest in expanding and deepening bilateral relations with Pakistan.

The parliamentarians of both the countries held detailed discussion on bilateral issue and explored the ways and means to further strengthen the parliamentary relations between the two countries.

MNAs Ms. Maryam Aurangzeb, Ms. Farhana Qaiser, Ms. Asiya Naz Tanoli, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi, Malik Muhammad Uzair and Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam were attended the meeting. Mr. Tomas Rosander, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan was also present on the occasion.



Pakistan- Russia to Capitalize on Vast Potential of Cooperation: Says Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has stressed upon the need of further boosting the ties between Pakistan and Russia in all fields including parliamentary cooperation, trade, business, energy, metallurgy, manufacturing, etc. He said this, on 22nd May, in a meeting with Mr. Sergey Naryshkin, Chairman State Duma of Russian Federation according to message received from Moscow, Russia.

“We have to work together to realize vast potential yet unrealized in the business as well as political fields. In the new parliament the government, as well as

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also underlined the need of frequent high level contacts between the leadership of Pakistan and Russia as well as parliament to parliament and people to people contacts must increase’ he stressed. “I have brought the message of good wishes to the president and people of Russian Federation from the people and government of Pakistan. He invited his Russian counterpart to visit Pakistan along with the parliamentary delegation to promote the relations between the two parliaments which are embodiment of the will of the people.

The Speaker also pointed out that both the countries had similar views on various



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq during a meeting with his Russian Counterpart along with NA Parliamentary Delegation at State Duma, Moscow, on 22.05.2014

opposition, are vociferous in promoting relations with Russia and we must capitalize on the political will and consensus for the promotion of bilateral relations mutually beneficial for the two nations.”

international issues and were already supporting each other in various global fora. He also emphasized the need of closer cooperation between Russia and Pakistan to effectively combat the menaces of drug trafficking and terrorism and to ensure peace



and stability in post US withdrawal from Afghanistan as it was essential for the regional and global peace without which the full economic potential of the region could not be realized.

The Speaker added and specifically mentioned the cooperation in the fields of LNG, textile, power generation and Steel Mills Karachi by the Russian Companies. He assured that the parliament through its standing committees will do everything possible to facilitate the Russian business men by creating linkages between Pakistani business community through chambers of commerce and industries and public sector institutions”, he emphasized.

On the occasion, Mr. Sergey Naryshkin, Chairman of State Duma said that Russia attaches importance to its relations with Pakistan and wants to further fortify them through enhanced cooperation in diverse

fields. He supported the proposals of the Speaker for promoting investment of Russian Companies in Pakistan especially in the fields of energy, communication and manufacturing sectors. He also agreed for enhancing parliamentary cooperation between State Duma and National Assembly of Pakistan.

MNAs Mian Abdul Manan, Convener Pak Russian Friendship Group Ms. Marvi Memon, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and Sheikh Salahuddin, Secretary National Assembly and Pakistan’s Ambassador to Russia were also present during the meeting.

Pakistan-Russia to increase High Level Contacts to boost Bilateral Relations - Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met with the Chairperson of Federation Council of Russian Federation Ms. Valentina Matvienko,



Group photo of NA Parliamentary Delegation headed by Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, with Ms. Valentina Matvienko, the Chairperson of Federation Council of Russian Federation at Moscow



on 23rd May, and discussed with her a variety of issues related to strengthening of Parliamentary Cooperation between National Assembly and Council of Russian Federation as well as economy, trade, energy, and manufacturing according to message received from Moscow, Russia.

During the meeting, the Speaker specifically emphasized the political will and consensus in the parliament regarding the closer relations with Russia. “There is not a single member out of 342 in the National Assembly of Pakistan who does not support to have excellent relations with Russia,” the Speaker remarked.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also stressed the need of Russian investment to come to Pakistan for the mutual benefit of both the countries.

alternative route for Russia to be linked with Middle East. This can play a vital role in the stability and economic progress of these regions,” the Speaker remarked.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called for closer collaboration between Pakistan and Russia to combat the menaces of terrorism and drug trafficking which were badly affecting both the countries. He also added that China had convened a meeting of Pakistan and Afghanistan to combat drug trafficking and if Russia can become a part of this tripartite arrangement, it will greatly boost the efforts to get rid of this great threat.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also proposed to hold Russia specific exhibitions in major cities of Pakistan to boost trade prospects between



Group photo of NA Parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq with Chairman of State Duma Mr. Sergey Naryshkin at Moscow, Russia, 22-05-14

“Russia can take advantage of the Pak-China “trade corridor”, spread from Chinese border to Gwadar port, as it can serve another

the two countries. “The Parliament will play its positive role and will make every possible effort to facilitate the Russian



business concerns to trade and invest in Pakistan”, the speaker said.

On the occasion, Ms. V. I. Matvienko, while heading the Russian side, largely comprising the members of Pakistan Friendship Group in Federation Council, recalled her visit to Pakistan and thanked the Speaker and the parliamentary delegation for their visit. She thanked the Speaker for his visit to Russia. While agreeing with the Speaker to join hands in combating terrorism, she offered the training facilities to the Pak agencies’ to effectively combat drug trafficking. She also suggested that Russia, Pakistan and regional countries should cooperate with each other to combat terrorism and deal with the emerging situation in the wake of withdrawal of NATO and US forces from Afghanistan.

The Russian side headed by the

Chairperson, included the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and members of the Federation Council Committees on Science, Education, Culture and Information Policy, International Affairs, Social Policy, Federation Budget and Financial Markets Committee, Foreign Affairs and the representatives of the Foreign Ministry. Among others the meetings were attended by MNAs Mian Abdul Manan, Convener Pak Russian Friendship Group Ms. Marvi Memon, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Sheikh Salahuddin, Mr. Karamat Hussain Niazi, Secretary, National Assembly and Mr. Zaheer Ahmed Janjua, Ambassador of Pakistan to Russia.

NA Speaker meets with Tajik President

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called on President of Tajikistan Mr. Emomali



President of Tajikistan Mr. Emomali Rahmon receiving Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on his arrival at President House in Dushnbe on 27.05.2014



Rahmonon on 27th May. According to the message received from Dushanbe, Tajikistan, both the leaders exchanged views on political, economic, trade, people to people contact as well as parliament to Parliament cooperation between both the countries. They also expressed satisfaction on excellent bilateral relations and highlighted the need to further enhance these relations.

The Speaker said that regular exchange of high level visits between the two countries provides impetus to cordial relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan. It was noted that recorded bilateral trade has reached US\$ 93 million in 2013 which was not true reflection of trade potential between the two countries. He also emphasized that interactions under the umbrella of Joint Ministerial Commission and Pakistan-Tajikistan Business Forum and exchange of business delegations should be regularized to further increase the trade between the two countries.

On this occasion, the issue of power shortage in Pakistan was also discussed. The President of Tajikistan said that his country has surplus electricity; therefore it will export electricity to Pakistan to overcome its energy requirements. He said that CASA-1000 was a landmark project which will provide 1000 MW of electricity to Pakistan to mitigate its acute energy deficit. Both the leaders also agreed for exchange of parliamentary delegations which would provide opportunity to either side for learning from each other's experiences and exchange of views.

The Speaker National Assembly was on a three day visit to Tajikistan, leading a Parliamentary Delegation.

Pakistan-Tajikistan to Upgrade Political and Socio-Economic Relations:Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called on Speaker of the Majlisi Milli of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Makhmadsaid Ubaidulloev, on 30th May. According to the message received from Dushanbe, Tajikistan, both the leaders exchanged views on political, economic, trade, people to people contact as well as parliament to Parliament cooperation between both the countries. They also expressed satisfaction on excellent bilateral relations and highlighted the need to further enhance these relations. Both the leaders also agreed for exchange of parliamentary delegations which would provide opportunity to either side for learning from each other's experiences and exchange of views.

He underlined the importance of relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan in all fields especially in the fields of economy, culture and education. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed hope for establishing closer relations between Majlisi Milli of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan and National Assembly of Pakistan.

Mr. Makhmadsaid Ubaidulloev emphasized that development of equal and mutually beneficial cooperation with Pakistan is one of the priorities of Tajikistan's foreign policy. He expressed hope that the visit of the delegation of Pakistan's National Assembly would give impetus to inter-parliamentary cooperation between the two countries. He voiced satisfaction with the stable liaisons between Tajikistan and Pakistan as well as constructive cooperation in international and regional organizations.



OTHER NEWS

NA Speaker & Deputy Speaker Condoled the Death of Brother of MNA Major (R) Tahir Iqbal

Thursday, 1st May, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan have condoled the sad demise of brother of MNA Major(R) Tahir Iqbal.

In their separate condolence messages, Speaker and Deputy Speaker prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage and fortitude to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable losses with equanimity.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker Condoled the Death of Son of Mrs. Musarat Rafique Mahesar, MNA

Friday, 9th May, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly have condoled the death of son of Mrs. Musarat Rafique Mahesar, MNA.

In their separate condolence messages to Mrs. Musarat Rafique Mahesar, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker expressed their deep sense of grief and sorrow over the sad demise and prayed for eternal peace of departed soul. They also prayed for grant of strength and

fortitude to members of the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity.

Let the 21st century be the Century of Women, NA Speaker

The Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, was the Chief Guest at a Seminar on Women's Quota in the legislative bodies organized by the Women's Parliamentary Caucus with support from the UN Women and the UNDP, on 13th May. In his address, the Speaker lauded the role of women parliamentarians in legislative business over the years. He further commended the role of Women's Parliamentary Caucus in particular, that provided an effective platform to the women parliamentarians to discuss and review issues requiring legislative and policy attention. Given the substantive work undertaken by the caucus, the Speaker reaffirmed his complete support to the women parliamentarians in assuming a meaningful role whether they are elected on direct seats or nominated on reserve seats.

His Excellency Lars Gunner Wigemark, the Ambassador of European Union, and the guest

of honour stated "One way to have a greater number of women elected directly to parliament would be to mobilize the large number of women in Pakistan who remain outside the political process. Although more women voted



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq is addressing a Seminar on Women Empowerment in Politics organized by Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) on 13.05.2014



in the 2013 elections than ever before, there are still 11 million women who are not even registered to vote. It is in the interest of all political parties to enfranchise these potential women voters."

Ms. Joanna Merlin Scholtes from UN Women in her address stated that "meeting with women politicians and leaders has reinforced my conviction that bringing women to the forefront will ensure there will be more and more: women friendly legislations and policies". Mr. Marc Andre Franche, UNDP Pakistan Country Director observed, "Looking at the gender landscape in Pakistan today, in terms of political participation, urgent measures are needed to create a level playing field for women in the electoral process. As I am sure you will all agree, this lingering democratic deficit undermines the quality of Pakistan's democracy. And that is why today's discussion on the merits and demerits of gender quotas as a mechanism for enhancing women's political representation is timely and important."

Ms. Shaista Malik the Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus emphasized that "We can only have an optimistic future scenario if women are given meaningful participation in legislative process. The collective wisdom of women parliamentarians would go a long way in addressing the women related issues". She asked all political parties and politicians to join hands beyond political parties for the cause of empowering women. Both the Chairpersons of Parliamentary Affairs Committees assured the Women's Parliamentary Caucus of their full support for legislation on women empowerment. Ms. Khawar Mumtaz the Chairperson National Commission on Status of Women said that "women empowerment is a long journey and in Pakistan it has come a long way. When women have become parliamentarians they have played a substantial role in moving forward progressive legislation but there is still need to make this participation sustainable and more

meaningful". Ms. Aamina Qadir Adham Senior Gender Advisor of UN Women said that even though there were an unprecedented 448 women who filed papers for contesting elections on general seats yet only 9 women got elected. "Quotas are pivotal for women's participation and according to the statistics of 2013 elections Candidature of 53% women on reserved seats in NA and 46% women candidates on reserved seats in PA was rejected and the key reason for more than 90% of the rejections was that the names of these women were not on the final party lists."

The seminar was attended by a large number of parliamentarians from all parties, Chairpersons of Parliamentary Affairs Committees Ms. Khawar Mumtaz Chairperson of National Commission on Status of Women (NCSW), Ministry of Law Justice and Human Rights, Government officials, civil society organizations and international partners.

The participants gave key recommendations for ensuring a more democratic process for women's quota seats which included;

- 1) Having a system for both quota and direct election for women.
- 2) Strengthen political parties to have transparent and democratic electoral processes within party to enable women to compete directly for party positions.
- 3) Strengthening women wings in political parties and bring forward women.
- 4) Set up electoral schools at local, provincial and federal level.

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

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly has said that nation has a lot of expectations from its youth and they should equip themselves of modern time technology and work hard to steer the country out of challenges confronted to the country. He expressed these views while addressing a seminar on "Youth: Agents of



Change” organized by Ms. Asiya Nasir, MNA, on May 15.

The Speaker said that Pakistan is facing menace of terrorism and extremism which has disrupted civic life of citizens and economic activities in the country. “We are committed to peace and stability and elimination of extremism and terrorism in the country as well as in the region” he added. He said that all the political parties in Pakistan are on the same page on the issues of national importance. He called upon the youth of the country to come forward and join hand for the prosperity and development of the country.

The Speaker also informed audience about the steps taken for making the National Assembly more vibrant and responsive to the masses. He also shared the proactive and vibrant Parliamentary Friendship Groups mechanism which has been established in National Assembly. He said that youth is being encouraged to visit parliament and witness its proceedings.

At this moment Speaker also informed them about the introduction of subject/course on Parliamentary Practices and Legislative Drafting in universities and educational institution all over the country. Ms. Marryam Auranzeb, Parliamentary Secretary of Interior & Narcotics Control, Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan, MNA and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Joint Sitting of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) Summoned to Meet on Monday, the 2nd June, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

Monday, 19th May, 2014

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 54 read with clause (3) of Article 56 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President has been pleased to summon both the Houses to assemble together in the Parliament House, Islamabad on Monday, the 2nd June, 2014, at 11:00 a.m.

Murtaza Javed Abbasi Acts as Speaker National Assembly

Tuesday, 20th May, 2014

In pursuance of the provisions of clause (3) of Article 53 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly shall act as Speaker National Assembly during visit of Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker, National Assembly, abroad.

National Assembly Session has been summoned

Tuesday, 20th May, 2014

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 54 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President has been pleased to summon the National Assembly to meet in the Parliament House, Islamabad on Tuesday, the 3rd June, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

NA Speaker and Acting Speaker Condole the Death of Former MNA Mian Muhammad Mohsin Ali Qureshi

Wednesday, 21st May, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Acting Speaker, National Assembly have condoled the death of former MNA Mian Muhammad Mohsin Ali Qureshi and husband of Senator Khalida Parveen.

In their separate condolence messages to Senator Khalida Parveen, the Speaker and the Acting Speaker expressed their deep sense of grief and sorrow over the sad demise and prayed for eternal peace of departed soul. They also prayed for grant of strength and fortitude to members of the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity.

NA Acting Speaker Murtaza Javed Abbasi takes serious notice of entry of Protester into precinct of Parliament House

Friday, 23rd May, 2014

Islamabad May 23, 2014: The Acting Speaker National Assembly, Murtaza Javed Abbasi



taking serious notice of the failure of Islamabad Police to stop the protesters to enter into the precinct of the Parliament House, has sought report from Ministry of Interior and Inspector General Police.

He termed the incident a failure and incompetence of Islamabad Police who has failed to devise any strategy in this regard. He directed the Ministry of Interior to enquire into the incident and take appropriate action against the responsible. He also sought report of the investigation of two such incidents which took place in recent past.

“Youm-E-Takbeer” Is the Pride of the Nation: Says NA Acting Speaker

Wednesday, 28th May, 2014

Acting Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi has said that Pakistan had detonated nuclear blasts on May 28, 1998, 16 years earlier at Chaghi, Balochistan and earned the honour of becoming first nuclear power of Muslim World. He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering on the occasion of celebrating Youm-e-Takbeer at Lora near Abbotabad, on 28th May.

He said that May 28 is a historic day for the Pakistani nation as defence of the country was made invincible. “The Pakistani nation, under its Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, defied international pressure and made a crucial decision on May 28, 1998, that made the country’s defence impregnable,” the Acting Speaker said. He said Pakistan’s nuclear deterrence is a big achievement on which whole nation bows before Allah Almighty with gratefulness.

Congratulating the nation on this occasion, he said Pakistan being a responsible nation could not be oblivious of the threats posed to its national security and regional peace. He said Youm-e-Takbeer symbolizes our firm belief in unflinching determination to defend the country and national self-respect. The Acting Speaker said that Pakistan is a peace loving nation having no aggressive designs against any country.

He also paid rich tributes to Armed Forces and renowned nuclear scientists for their services to strengthen country's defence.

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