

NEWSLETTER



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
PARLIAMENT OF PAKISTAN**



Chief Editor Note

I am delighted to share the second issue of Newsletter which I hope have helped to keep you updated on latest news and significant happening in the Parliament.

Parliamentary democracy cherished the value of public access to information therefore development of informed, alert and cultivated public opinion is the primary goal of our Newsletter.

The Newsletter provides brief detail of the work done by the National Assembly in the first half of the year. A glimpse of parliamentary diplomacy is also a prominent feature of our issue.

The legislation in the House and deliberation of the Standing Committees remained bounded to the matter of great public importance. The National Assembly Secretariat under the dynamic leadership of Speaker National Assembly is committed to serve and informed public and the Newsletter is a humble effort in this regard.

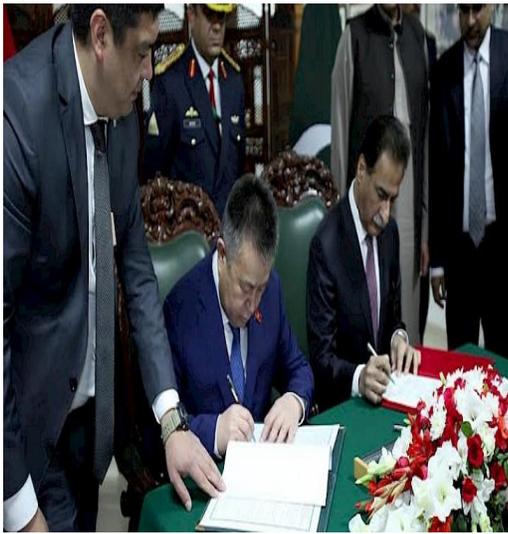
We give greater regard to readers' views and feedback. We welcome any suggestion and love hearing from valuable readers.

Happy reading





VISIT OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION OF KYRGYZSTAN MARCH 13-15 2017



Krygzstan’s Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker Mr. Jogorku Kenesh Chynybai Tursunbekov called on the Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. During the meeting the two sides exchanged views on the prospects of cooperation in cultural, humanitarian, political and economic spheres and discussed expanding the inter-parliamentary partnership. In this meeting, Memorandum on inter-parliamentary cooperation was also signed between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, noting the need to expand cooperation between the two countries in all spheres, expressed that the inter-parliamentary partnership will serve as the basis for fruitful cooperation in the future.

PAKISTAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION LED BY SPEAKER SARDAR AYAZ SADIQ VISITED TURKEY, MARCH 28, 2017

The Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called on the Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim in Ankara. The two sides exchanged views on further deepening the brotherly ties between the two countries, particularly the enhancement of bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Both leaders noted with satisfaction the ongoing progress on Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which was expected to be concluded soon. Once signed, they hoped that it would provide



a major boost to the realization of the robust economic partnership as envisioned by the leadership of the two countries. Later on, the Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, held meeting with the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA), Ismail Kahraman. During the meetings, a broad spectrum of issues pertaining to bilateral relations, as well as regional and international developments came under discussion. The Speaker, along with the delegation, visited the mausoleum of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi. Governor of Konya later hosted a luncheon in honor of the visiting delegation.



Group photo of Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq along with his Parliamentary delegation at Mausoleum of Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi Konya



NA SPEAKER CALLS FOR EU SUPPORT FOR SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN, APRIL 18, 2017

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq welcomed Parliamentary delegation of European Union led by Mr. David McAllister, the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of EU Parliament while Ambassador of European Union Mr. Jean Francois called on him at Parliament House. Mr. Jean Francois was also present on the occasion. Mr. David McAllister acknowledged Pakistan’s aspiration for regional peace and security and endorsed Ayaz Sadiq’s proposal for expansion and diversification of trade and economic relations. He added that the EU Parliament is also keen to partner with Pakistan for uplifting performance of democratic institutions



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq during a meeting with European Parliamentary delegation Led by Member of European Parliament Mr. David McAllister in Parliament House on 18.04.2017.

NA SPEAKER CALLS ON IRANIAN PRESIDENT IN TEHRAN, -23-24 April 2017



Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, headed parliamentary delegation to Iran where he, in addition to meeting with his Iranian counterpart, called on the President Hassan Rohani of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The meeting was termed as “President’s special gesture for Pakistan,” given the fact that Presidential elections had been announced in Iran and President Rohani came specially for the meeting from his critical election campaign.

Rohani that that could go country, Iran. Foreign Minister Pakistan held Republic of Iran. highlighting the Islamabad, said “the two sides enjoy excellent ties in all fields while Iran is ready to further bolster relations in political, security, economic and parliamentary sectors.”



Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stressed Pakistan’s policy of unity among the Muslim World and assured President Pakistan would never take any step against the interests of its brotherly The Speaker also met with Iran’s Zarif who underlined that security of great significance to the Islamic The Iranian official, while good relations between Tehran and



PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION LED BY SPEAKER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VISITED KABUL AFGHANISTAN, 28-29 APRIL 2017

A high-level parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq reached Kabul for a two-day visit. Besides meeting their counterparts in Kabul, the Pakistani delegation comprising senior members of the National Assembly and the Senate meet with the Afghan leadership and discussed resumption of dialogue in order to address the common issues between the two sides. The delegation was received

by Wolesi Jirga, the Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimi and the Chairman of Afghan Senate, Fazal Hadi Muslimyar. Speaker Ayaz Sadiq stated that the high powered delegation visit indicated the utmost importance Pakistan attached to its bilateral



relations with Afghanistan. The Speaker reiterated Pakistan's commitment towards Afghan peace and stability and urged the need for constructive engagement between the two countries for the elimination of the common threat of terrorism. The Speaker of Wolesi Jirga and the Chairman of Mishrano Jirga acknowledged the efforts made by Pakistan for Afghanistan, particularly for hosting millions of refugees for more than three decades. They stressed the need for the continuity of parliamentary exchanges for the sake of enhancing bilateral ties. Both sides agreed upon the need of joint counterterrorism efforts.

2nd MEETING OF SPEAKERS OF EURASIAN COUNTRIES' PARLIAMENTS (MSEAP)



During the 2nd Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments' (MSEAP), Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly held sideline meetings with Mr. Vyacheslav Volodin, the Chairman of Duma (Russian Parliament) and Mr. Chung Sye-kyun, the Speaker of Republic of Korea. The leaders stressed the need for regular interaction between the political and parliamentary leadership to build the bridges of understanding and friendship. While talking with his Russian counterpart, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan and Russia not only share the same continent but also the same values of democracy and human freedom, therefore, both nations need

to take their bilateral relations to new heights. He said that Pakistan values its relations with Russia and



wants to diversify them through parliamentary, people-to-people and economic ties. Russian State Duma Speaker, Mr. Vyacheslav Volodin supported the idea of his Pakistani counterpart to hold a conference in Pakistan devoted to security issues and fight against terrorism while addressing the inaugural session of 2nd meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments (MSEAP).

COMMANDER OF BAHRAINI NATIONAL GUARDS, CALLS ON JANUARY 3, 2017



Honourable Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, while talking to the Lt. General Sheikh Mohammad Bin Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, the Commander of the Bahraini National Guards said that unrelenting cooperation between the Muslim countries is highly imperative for confronting challenges posed by terrorism and internal divisions. He outlined that Pakistan is committed to enhance partnership with Bahrain and aims to promote unity and cooperation among the Muslim world. Lieutenant General Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa endorsed Ayaz Sadiq's proposal for collaboration to confront shared challenges and urged the need for deeper engagement between the two friendly countries

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MR. SHERIF SHAHEEN, CALL ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2017

Egyptian Ambassador, Sherif Shaheen called on the National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq and expressed his country's interest to become part of the massive infrastructural economic corridor project. The Speaker, while exchanging views, remarked that "Egypt's participation in CPEC will assign substantive meanings to the transcontinental game-changer project by connecting Sino-Pak Economic Corridor to Africa, Europe and Middle East," Mr. Ayaz Sadiq further exclaimed that "Egypt's participation in CPEC will open a new channel of unhindered flow of trade between Africa and China through a secure and cheaper trade route via Pakistan."





CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EN PIED OF PORTUGAL, MR. JOAO PAULO MARQUES SABIDO COSTA CALL ON FEBRUARY 24, 2017



Charge d' Affaires en Pied of the Portugal Mr. Joao Paulo Marques Sabido Costa called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on 24.02.2017.

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq remarked that Pakistan attaches immense importance to Portugal and want to take the existing warm relations between the two countries to new heights through parliamentary and economic cooperation. Mr. Joao Paulo Marques Sabido Costa, Charge d'Affaires en pied of Portugal, 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 his country strongly desires to enhance its parliamentary relations apart from cooperation in other fields. He also conveyed invitation of Portuguese Speaker to Speaker National Assembly to visit Portugal and meet his

counterpart.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION MEETS SPEAKER NA - MARCH 15, 2017

An Indian Parliamentary delegation met with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in the Parliament House. The Speaker while exchanging views with the delegations expressed that elected representatives of both sides have a responsibility to build strong and meaningful relations between the two neighboring countries. The Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Member Lok Sabha Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Member Lok Sabha and Mr. Swapan Dasgupta, Member Rajya Sabha were also present in the meeting. Both sides met in an atmosphere of mutual cordiality; discussing a variety of issues affecting the relations between the two Countries.





MS. GERDA VERBURG, THE UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL AND GLOBAL COORDINATOR OF THE SCALING UP NUTRITION (SUN) MOVEMENT CALL ON WITH SPEAKER NA - APRIL 11, 2017



UN Assistant Secretary-General Ms. Gerda Verburg called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House on 11.04.2017.

While speaking to Ms. Gerda Verburg, the UN Assistant Secretary General and Global Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, who called on him at the Parliament House, the Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the stalemate in Kashmir, Iraq, Palestine, and Libya raises pertinent questions about the role of United Nations in conflict resolution and the future of the world body dedicated to protection of human rights, equality, social progress and peace. The UN Assistant Secretary General and Global Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)

assured the Speaker that United Nations is committed to scaling up the efforts in combating malnutrition, food insecurity and poverty across the globe. She further added that enhancing the capacity of the parliamentarians and parliamentary secretariat is highly imperative for accelerating progress towards achievement of the SDGs

HIGHLIGHTS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

The National Assembly remained in session for 48 days and transcended the business in 118 Hours and 24 minutes including one day of joint session

Bill passed by National Assembly	24
Government bills introduced	20
Private member bills introduced	31
Bills Passed in Joint Session	02

Resolutions adopted 15

Questions received	3809
Questions admitted	1590
Question answered	850
Question disallowed	140
Total question processed but lapsed	1944
Duration of time for question hours	27 hours

Under rule 87: Two motions (2) were received but only one (1) was allowed and discussed.

Motions under rule 259: 528

Question of privilege: 35

Calling attention notices: Out of 174 Calling Attention Notices, 38 were brought before the House and 136 notices had lapsed.

Adjournment motions 61

Budget 2017-18 : The Government presented its 5th consecutive budget on 26th May, 2016. Total outlay of the budget 2017-18 is Rs. 5,103 billion. The size is 4.3 percent higher than the size of the previous budget. The focus of the government is on the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) as Rs. 2113 billion have been allocated for this purpose. Out of this, Rs. 1112 billion have been allocated to provinces whereas federal PSDP has been estimated at Rs. 1001 billion. 67 percent of PSDP has been allocated for infrastructure particularly communication and transport sectors. 25 standing committees of the National Assembly



discussed PSDP in their meetings. The PSDP was discussed the most in Standing Committee on Communications and Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat. The budget speech was for 01 hour and 54 minutes. Total deliberation on budget was for 19 hours and 48 minutes including 14 hours from Government side whereas 05 hours and 48 minutes from the opposition side. Total 84 Members of the National Assembly spoke on the budget including 70 Members from Government side whereas 14 Members from the opposition side. The budget was passed on June 13th, 2017 in the absence of opposition as the opposition staged a walk-out as a protest for not allowing live telecast of the speech of leader of opposition on budget 2017-18.



PARLAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

The Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, in consultation with the Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani, has constituted a 33-member Parliamentary Committee on National Security. The 33 member Committee, in the Chairmanship of Ayaz Sadiq, comprises all the Parliamentary leaders of the Parliamentary Parties of both the Houses of Parliament. The terms of reference of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security has also been announced with the formation of the Committee, which include discussion ON ISSUES OF national security of urgent nature, periodically reviewing, monitoring and overseeing implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) with a view to ensuring its expeditious implementation, to monitor the process of transition from military courts to civil courts through criminal justice reforms and to present periodical reports of the committee to both houses of the Majlis-e-Shoora(Parliament).



STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice under the Chairmanship of Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk, MNA held three meeting from January 1st 2017 to June 30th 2017. In these meeting the committee considered, discusses and deliberated on different bills which include the Constitution Amendment Bill (Twenty-Fourth Amendment) 2016, the Alternate Dispute Resolution Bill, 2016, the Costs of Litigation Bill, 2016, the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015 Insertion of new Article 19-B, The Constitution Twenty-Fifth Amendment Bill, 2017, Twenty-Fifth Amendment Bill, 2017, Twenty-Sixth Amendment Bill, 2017. The committee also considered the budgetary proposals relating to Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for the year 2017-18.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER



The Committee during the first half of the year holds five meetings and discussed in great detail the Indian’s threat on Indus Waters and charted out a course of action needs to be adopted by the Government and emphasized on the involvement of the World Bank to play its role in the dispute. The committee also discussed “The Indus River System Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2017” and considered the amendments proposed in the draft further to amend the Indus River System Authority Act, 1992(Act No. XXII of 1992. The Federal Minister of Water and Power briefly apprised the Committee about the different projects of electricity which was initiated to overcome the shortfall of the electricity.



Chairman Standing Committee on Water and Power Muhammad Arshad Khan Leghari chairing the committee meeting in Parliament House on 03.05.2017.

The Committee discussed Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the next financial year 2017-18 and the speedy release of the amounts so that the rest of the projects could be completed in time as amount of Rs. 216 Billion for 173 projects was proposed but only 25 to 30 percent of proposed funds were released for the year 2016-17.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION



Mr.Nazir Ahmed Bughio, MNA Presiding over the Standing Committee meeting on Communications in Parliament House on 10.07.2017.

The Standing Committee on Communications held 3 meeting during the period from January 1st to June 30th 2017. The committee discussed “the Pakistan private courier regulatory authority bill, 2015”. The committee recommended approving the projects of worth Rs. 700 billion consisting of 50 ongoing and 26 new projects. It also considered the progress on all the ongoing projects in details.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS



Chairman Standing Committee on Human Rights Mr. Babar Nawaz Khan chairing the committee meeting in Parliament House on 04.07.2017.

The Standing Committee on Human Rights holds nine meetings during first half of the year 2017. Human rights, child beggar's issues establishment of Child Protection Centre and legislation for the transgender rights remained as highly prioritized matters on the agenda of the Committee. The Committee discussed Quetta Carnage, Human rights violations in Indian held Kashmir in great detail. The Committee visited various sections of Pakistan Sweet Homes i.e. Great Home, Class rooms and Hostel of the orphans and homeless childrens. The committee directed the Ministry of Human Rights to arrange a briefing pertaining to develop Human Right awareness in general public

including Child rights. The Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) briefed the Committee about their activities for women rights. The Committee reconsidered the Bills "The women distress and detention fund (Amendment Bill, 2017) (Amendment of section 6, Act XV of 1996) (Government Bill) and The Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Bill, 2017.

INTERNATIONAL PARLAIMENTARIAN SEMINAR ON KASHMIR 5-6 JAN 2017



International Parliamentary Seminar on Kashmir organised by Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) National Assembly under patronage of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq was held in Islamabad. The event aimed to analyze the plight of people of Indian occupied Kashmir (IoK) and issues regarding Indian brutalities. Various dignitaries comprising around 20 international member parliaments and experts from European Parliament UK Canada and

North America in addition to 400 national delegates comprising members Parliament of Pakistan academia social scientists think tanks international reporters and students participated in the seminar.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



Women Parliamentary Caucus organized 3-day international women conference in federal capital from March 13 - 15, 2017. The Women's Parliamentary Caucus in Pakistan has organised the event to engage Women Parliamentarians across the region to discuss how a social contract in the societies in crisis can be renewed and how women parliamentarians' network can build alliances to effectively support oversight, legislative and representative roles in achieving it. The need for a new social contract based on solidarity between all segments of society is imperative for achieving sustainable development. Women parliamentarians from twelve countries including Pakistan, Myanmar, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Australia, Romania, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Indonesia participated in the 3-day International Conference.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing the participants of inaugural session of Conference on "The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Strengthening Democracy and Social Justice" Organized by (WPC) in Islamabad on 13.03.2017.

ONE-DAY NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE 'IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF WOMEN PROTECTION LAWS IN PAKISTAN'



On February 09, 2017, Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) organized a one day National Consultation on the 'Implementation Issues and Challenges of Women Protection Laws in Pakistan', to commemorate the National Women's Day falling on February 12. The consultation was held at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS). Women and men parliamentarians from national level and across the four provincial assemblies and the two legislative assemblies of Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan were invited to participate. In addition, relevant stakeholders from executive branch of the government including police, medico-legal, media, and education department were invited to share their perspectives and challenges in the implementation of these laws

NA SPEAKER INAUGURATES BABY DAY CARE CENTER AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE 13 APRIL 2017



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq formally launched the two-room baby day care centre at Parliament House. He said at the inauguration ceremony that the Center was specially established for the purpose of facilitating working mother with infants. He expressed the hope that the center would facilitate the women parliamentarians and employees. Sadiq said the centre was a need for mothers who wanted to have their children properly looked after while they were busy inside the parliament. The Center was established with support of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination and UNICEF.



MONUMENT BUILT IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE FOR HEROES OF DEMOCRACY 9TH MARCH 2017



A MONUMENT CONSTRUCTED AT THE LAWN OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE UNSUNG HEROES OF DEMOCRATIC STRUGGLE INAUGURATED ON MARCH 9, 2017.



A monument has been constructed in the Parliament House Lawn in Islamabad to pay tributes to unsung heroes of democracy. It was jointly unveiled by Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani and Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at a ceremony. In their speeches, the custodians of the two Houses vowed to work together for supremacy of the Constitution, rule of law and strengthening of the democratic system. Chairman Senate said no society can flourish if it does not remember its heroes and those who rendered sacrifices for the cause of the country, its values and democracy. Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq emphasized on the supremacy of Parliament and about the contributions of the political workers to the strengthening of

the democratic institutions.



Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq receiving President Mamnoon Hussain at Parliament House before his address to the Joint Session of the Parliament on 01.06.2017



Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabbani at Book Launching Ceremony of Dr. Nafisa Shah's book on Honour Unmasked, Gender Violence, Law and Power in Pakistan in Islamabad on 25.05.2017



Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing a Seminar on "Rejuvenating Business for Pakistan's Progress" in National Defence University, Islamabad on 16.05.2017



Group photo of Newly Elected Office Bearers of the Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) with Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House on 19.04.2017



Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at Parliament House on 08.03.2017. Minister of State for Information Broadcasting and National Heritage Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb is also present on the occasion



• Group photo of Students from Cadet College Hasan Abdal with Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House 17 March 2017