

NEWSLETTER



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
PARLIAMENT OF PAKISTAN**



CHIEF EDITOR'S NOTE

The National Assembly has resumed periodic publication of Newsletter as part of a wider initiative of Parliamentary outreach. In line with constitutional obligations to provide access to information, the National Assembly is committed to bridge the gap between people and Parliament. The Newsletter briefly highlights Business of the House, Committees and engagements of Parliamentary delegations at various bilateral and multilateral forums from June to November, 2016.

“Taking parliament to your doors” would remain our new mantra. This issue covers the second half of the year 2016 of National Assembly’s notable happenings. The National Assembly Secretariat under the dynamic leadership of Speaker National Assembly is currently undergoing a new phase of transformation in to a more vibrant and progressive organization that is well poised and fully geared towards facilitating Honorable Members.



JAWAD RAFIQUE MALIK
SECRETARY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

We give greater regard to readers’ views and feedback. We welcome any suggestion that our valuable readers may like to propose towards making this worthwhile effort meeting highest standards. We love hearing from you.

Happy reading

SPEAKER'S LED DIPLOMACY

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, SARDAR AYAZ SADIQ, VISITED BERLIN FROM 4-8



JULY, 2016: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, visited Berlin from 4-8 July, 2016, on the invitation of the President of Bundestag, Prof. Norbert Lammert. During his stay in Germany, Ayaz Sadiq called on Chancellor Angela Merkel; and discussed parliamentary relations and bilateral cooperation between the two countries; as well as Afghanistan and Kashmir. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan strongly desires to further diversify its existing relations with Germany through enhanced people-to-people contacts and parliamentary cooperation. The German Chancellor highlighted that Germany also attaches great value to its relations with Pakistan and underlined the need to further cement them. She said that Pakistan

is an important country in region and it is a strong desire of her country to see Pakistan as a prosperous and stable country which was also in the interest of the region and the world. She agreed for enhancing relations between parliamentarians of both the countries

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq called on Speaker House of Lord, Baroness D'Souza, UK.

July 15, 2016: The meeting revolved between Speaker Ayaz Sadiq and Lords Speaker revolved around Pak-UK historic relations and opportunities for partnership in uplifting democracy through consistent Parliamentary engagement. Baroness D'Souza endorsed Ayaz Sadiq's proposal for strengthening consistent relations with Pakistan encompassing trade, security, human rights, education and people to people contacts. The Lord Speaker said that Britain acknowledge Pakistan's role in curbing terrorism and stands in solidarity with the families affected by terrorism. Later on, Speaker National Assembly also held a meeting with MPs and members of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) separately.



Baroness D'Souza, Speaker House of Lords welcoming Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in her Chamber at London.

Parliamentary Delegation led by Speaker of Turkmenistan Mrs Akja Tajiyewna Nurberdiyeva Call On Speaker National Assembly August 3, 2016:



During the meeting the Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq highlighted that Pakistan is set to open a new chapter in vibrant Pak-Turkmenistan inter-Parliamentary relations. He termed Turkmenistan as "Pakistan's partner" in its endeavors for the regional peace and prosperity. He said that Pak-Turkmen cooperation at various multilateral and bilateral forums is highly imperative for achieving shared objectives of regional and global peace. Mrs Akja Tajiyewna endorsed Ayaz Sadiq's proposal for expanding people

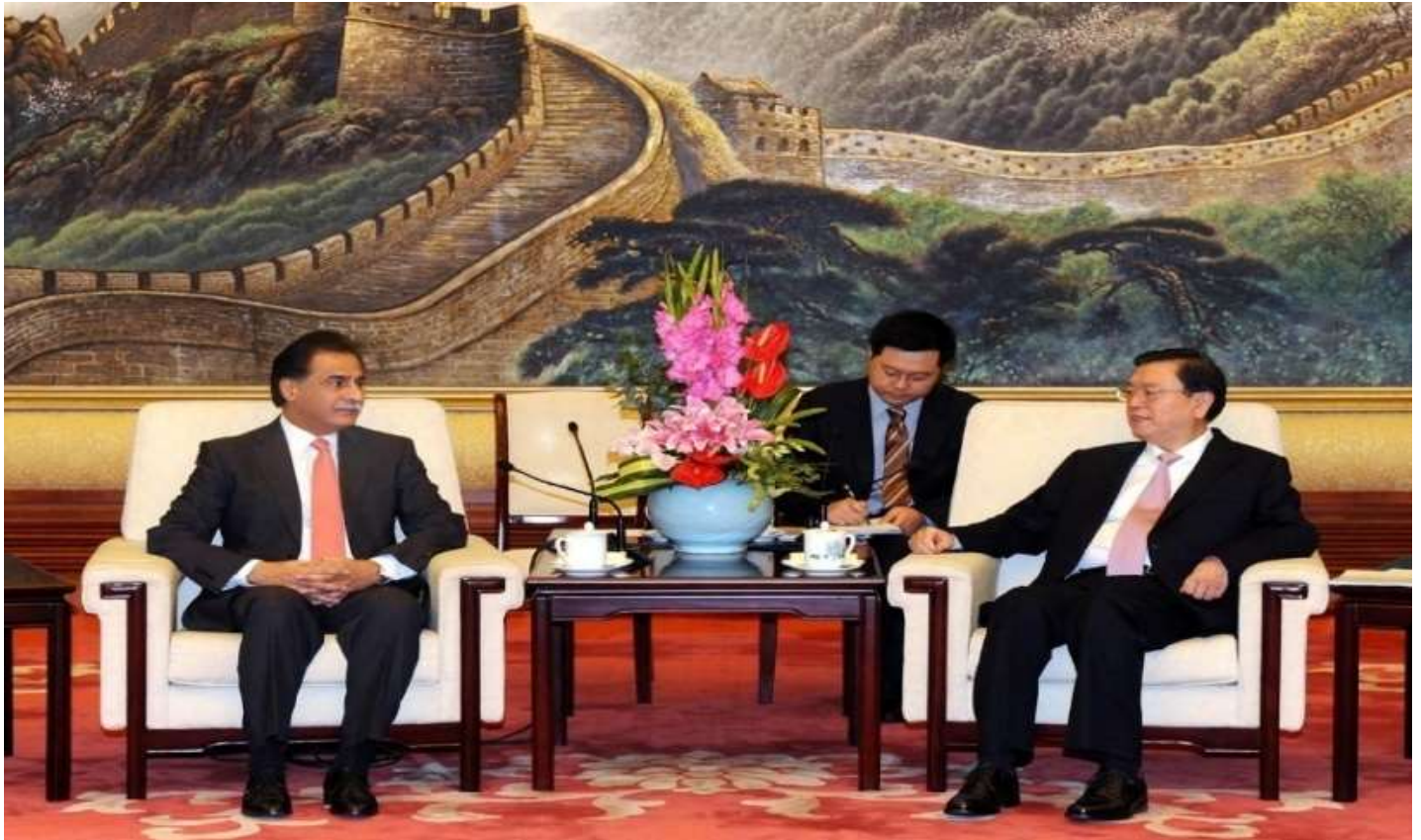
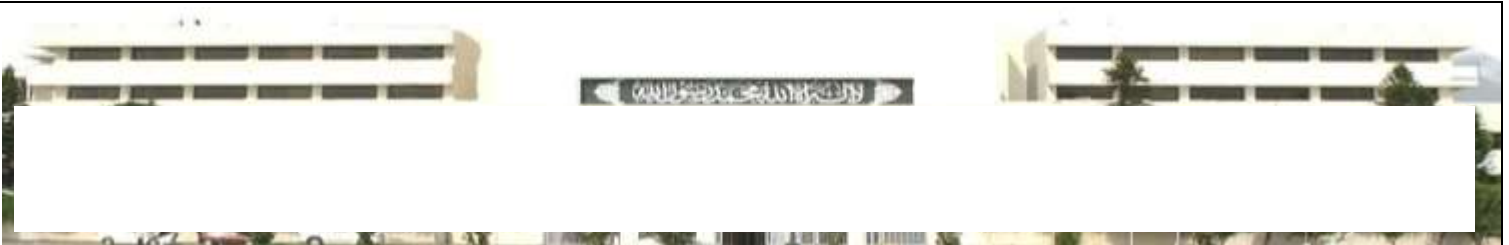
to people contacts and exchange of Parliamentary delegations.

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq led Parliamentary Delegation to attend Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), St. Petersburg, Russia:

While Addressing the Plenary Session He said that Pakistan's vision for 'Peaceful neighborhood' is manifested in Pakistan's endeavors for regional cooperation and connectivity. He further added that Pakistan pursues development through connectivity in collaboration with friendly countries as evident from CPEC, TAPI and CASA projects. The Speaker highlighted that terrorism cannot be associated with any religion, race, or ethnicity and underscored the need for a collaborative approach to address this menace. Referring to Pakistan geographic advantages, untapped potential and willingness for cooperation, he added that "We are determined to convert this enormous potential into reality with the help of our friends and partners".



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing the Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CSTO, Saint Petersburg, Russia.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met Mr. Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People, China on September 15, 2016: The Hon. Speaker said that China is a great country and a time tested friend of Pakistan. He expressed the hope that frequent parliamentary exchanges and people to people contacts would further strengthen the historically robust relationship. He highlighted that there is complete political consensus in Pakistan on the importance of the CPEC and Pakistan-China relation. Mr. Zhang Dejiang, Chairman Standing Committee of the NPC termed Pakistan and China as "All Weather Strategic Partners" and expressed support for the initiatives undertaken by the Government of Pakistan for Socio- Economic development. He also stated his understanding of Pakistan's position on the Kashmir dispute. They agreed on the frequent exchange of parliamentary delegations for oversight over the CPEC projects as well as to further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries. Later on the Speaker also attended a dinner hosted by Madam Shen Yueyue, Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the people.

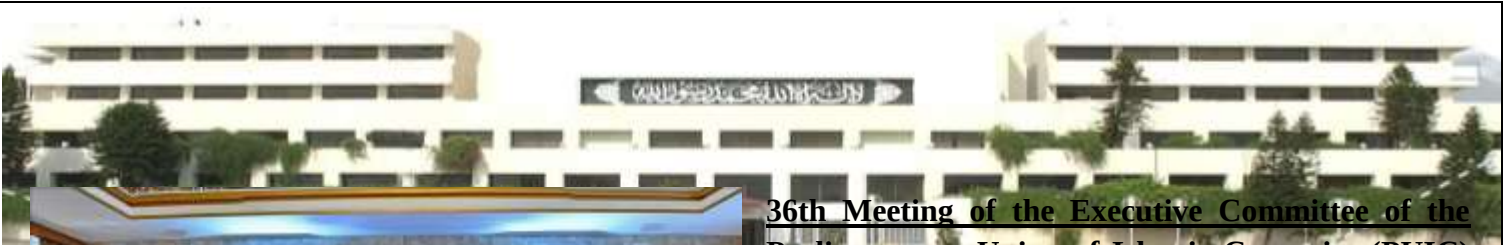


KASHMIR ISSUE AND THE PARLIAMENT OF PAKISTAN



For Pakistan, the Kashmir issue which is one of the oldest items on the agenda of the United Nations is not just a territorial dispute; rather, it is a human rights issue, relating to more than 13 million Kashmiris. The Parliament of Pakistan views the resolution of Kashmir issue as indispensable not only to achieve durable peace in the South Asian region but also to the aspirations of Kashmiri people's right to self determination.

The Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq for this very purpose sent letters to the Speakers of 196 Parliaments with an objective to highlight the rampant, unending and gross human rights abuse in Indian Occupied Kashmir and to garner diplomatic and political support for the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people. The Speaker National Assembly also demonstrated his unwavering stance on the Kashmir issue on every national and international forum. For the first time in 60 years of Pakistan's association with the CPA Pakistan called off hosting its Annual Conference in September 2015. However, the Speaker Ayaz Sadiq had to forego his Presidency and to withdraw Pakistan's bid for hosting the 61st CPA Conference for the sake of Pakistan's historic, unwavering and principled stance on Kashmir. Thus, Pakistan got the opportunity once again to highlight the Kashmir dispute as the unfinished agenda of partition and remind the global community, especially CPA members, about the plight of the Kashmiri people with the dire need for an amicable solution as per their aspirations.



36th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries (PUIC)

October 18, 2016: The Speaker while addressing the 36th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Union of Organization of Islamic Conference (PUIC) in Ankara said that the right of the self determination of the people of Kashmir need to be respected by the world community. He blasted the Indian attempts to equate the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people for self-determination with terrorism, noting that these had been repeatedly and categorically rejected by the OIC Member States as well as by the international



Parliamentary Union of Organization of Islamic Cooperation issues declaration following 36th executive meeting in Ankara on Oct 18, 2016

community. A moving documentary and pictorial slide-show were shown during the statement of the Speaker, vividly capturing the Indian state-terrorism in IOK, including the impact of pellet guns against the defenseless Kashmiris, particularly women and children; deaths and injuries caused by live ammunition fire at peaceful protestors; effect of torture; as well as discovery of mass graves in IOK. The documentary's crescendo was the ubiquitous chants of "Azadi" (freedom) by Kashmiri women in IOK that echoed in the meeting hall of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. The meeting's outcome document "Ankara Declaration" strongly reaffirmed the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

NA Speaker October 24, 2016 the 135th General Assembly of the Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly. 135th General Assembly of the Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly:

"Peaceful settlement of Kashmir issue in accordance with the aspirations of Kashmiri people is imperative for the peace and development of the region," Addressing the 135th General Assembly of Inter Parliamentary Union in Geneva, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stressed the need to ensure protection of fundamental rights of people as enshrined in constitution of every democratic state. He said the people of Occupied Kashmir look to the forum of Inter Parliamentary Union to end the repression and violence that they continue to face.



NA SPEAKER SARDAR AYAZ SADIQ ADDRESSING THE 135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER PARLIAMENTARY UNION ASSEMBLY IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

HIGHLIGHTS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

The National Assembly remained in session for 72 days and transcended the business in 170 hours and 40 minutes including three days of joint session

Bill passed by National Assembly	22
Government bills introduced	18
Private member bills introduced	07
Bills Passed in Joint Session	02

Resolutions: Two hundred fifty four (254) Resolutions were admitted out of which twenty four were adopted (24).

Questions: The total number of the received questions remained 3039 but only 1511 were submitted and the house received answer on eight hundred fifty one (851) and ninety three (93) questions were disallowed

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

Motions under rule 259: Three hundred and seventy six motions (376) were received under rule 259 out of which three hundred and seventy were admitted but lapsed (370) and only six were discussed.

Question of privilege: Out of (33) questions of privilege, (7) were referred to the Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, (26) remained under process.

Calling attention notices: Out of (176) Calling Attention Notices, (47) were brought before the House and statements were made thereon, (2) were referred to Standing Committee and (129) notices had lapsed.

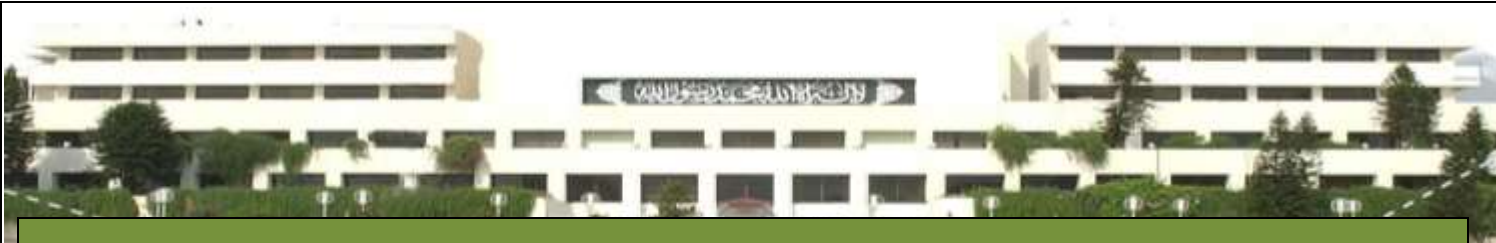
Adjournment motions: Out of (74) Adjournment motions, (7) were lapsed, (59) were disallowed and 8 were converted into Motion under rule (259) and discussed in the House.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT BALTISTAN



Chairman Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan
Malik Ibrar Ahmed chairing the committee meeting in Parliament House on 06.12.2016.

The Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs Gilgit Baltistan held eight meetings from 25th July 2016 till 8th November 2016. The committee discussed developmental issues in the meetings, development of Power and Tourism Sector in the GB region, advancing the quality of education and up gradation of health service Hydro-power generation/rural electrification and Law & Order situation in the AJK region.



RECOMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND GILGIT BALTISTAN

To increase the PSDP Budget of AJ&K for the next financial year in order to increase the pace of development in the AJ&K

The Funds of AJ&K Police be enhanced to construct proposed quarters in Police Lines to provide adequate Accommodation to the Police Force.

The Ministry may also improve the condition of School buildings in AJ&K particularly Boys High School Bela Noor Shah, Muzaffarabad. The concerned authorities may also be sensitized and directed to solve their issues on priority basis.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (PAC)

In the second half of the year 2016 the PAC took briefings from the Ministries/Divisions/ Departments on important issues just like weak follow-up of Court Cases. PAC was astonished to know that an amount of Rs.385, 830.24 Million of the exchequer is engaged due to Court Cases. The Committee thoroughly examined the issue and gave the suitable directions to resolve the issue.

During this period the issue of Grand Hyatt hotel remained under consideration. A land measuring 13.5 Acres (108 Kanal) near Jinnah Convention Centre, Constitution Avenue was given to M/s BNP Group by the CDA on nominal Charges of Rs. 75,000/- per sq yard with total value of Rs. 4882.350 Million for construction of 5 Star Hotel. The Committee is still considering the issue on priority basis. The Committee has directed the whole amount should be deposited in the treasury and recommended disciplinary proceeding/legal action against the personal responsible for allotting the costly land on nominal charges as per its jurisdiction

Public Accounts Committee constituted a Sub-Committee to meet the Honorable Speaker and request him to play his role to strengthen the functioning of PAC, therefore, in this regard a meeting under the Chairmanship of Honorable Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan has been held. The Office of the Chairman PAC with the help of PAC wing disposed of 55 complaints received after consultation/obtaining reports from Ministries/Divisions/Departments.

No. of Meetings held From 1 st June to 30 th Nov	No. of Grants Examined	No. of paras Examined	No. of complaints disposed
40	122	1170	55



COMMITTEE ON FATA REFORMS



In November 2015 a committee on FATA Reforms was set up to propose way forward for the political mainstreaming of Tribal Areas. The committee visited all agencies, tribal elders and all political parties, members of civil society, representatives of 6 frontier regions and civil servants. After thorough consultations with all stakeholders the committee laid its report in the National Assembly on 9TH September 2016 and the Assembly concluded its debate on FATA reforms on 21 November 2016. Member of National Assembly across the party line welcome the report and lauded the efforts of the government for taking this wonderful step towards the realization of the long awaited demand of FATA people.

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS



The 29th meeting of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held on 09th June, 10th June, 2016. In-Camera briefing on drone attack in Balochistan resulting killing of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor was given by Mr. Sartaj Aziz to the Committee. A detailed presentation on International non proliferation regime and Pakistan's nuclear doctrine with Special focus on NPT, CTBT and issues of NSG and MTCR was given by Dr. Shireen Mehrunnisa Mazari devotedly appreciated by the Committee. The 30th meeting of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held on 06th October, 2016. Briefing on Pakistan India relations

in current situations, latest Indian aggression along Line of Control (LOC) and postponement of Islamabad SAARC Summit was given by Foreign Secretary to the Committee. "The Ratification of International Treaties Bill, 2013" remained pending before the Committee till 30th November, 2013. The Sub-Committee on Foreign Affairs was constituted on 11th May, 2016 to monitor implementation status of United Nations Convention against Corruption UNCAC's relevant clauses by NAB.

TURKISH PRESIDENT ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT OF PAK ISTAN



Pakistan relations with Turkey depict the deep-rooted relations and fraternity between the two brotherly Islamic states. On 17th November 2016, the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan became the first foreign dignitary to address Pakistan's apex constitutional forum thrice. He reiterated that Pakistan and Turkey would maintain and further enhance cooperation and solidarity against terrorist organizations, sectarianism and ethnic discrimination spreading among the Islamic nations. He said that inter-parliamentarian contacts play a critical role in strengthening the relations between Pakistan and Turkey. He resolved that Turkey is deeply concerned about the increase of the tension between India and Pakistan and that the international community should exert efforts in order to solve the Kashmir issue.

WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS (WPC)

INITIATIVES OF THE (WPC) IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR 2016

Two Private Members' Bills on Anti-Rape tabled by MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus, and moved by the former Senator Sughra Imam were passed in joint sitting. Both bills before their passage from Parliament were extensively examined by WPC and the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Successful efforts for the inclusion of count of persons with disabilities in the National Census

Celebrated 'Supporting Women with Disabilities in Pakistan' at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS)

Organized 'Human Rights atrocities in Kashmir- Plight of Kashmiri Women' in Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS).





YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS FORUM (YPF)

The Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) consists of members of Parliament who were 40 years of age or under at the time of election.

Activities of Young Parliamentarians Forum		
Initiatives on the Issues of Transgender	youth empowerment and democratic development in Pakistan	SAARC Young Parliamentarians Conference (SYPC)
A consultative session between the YPF in collaboration with IP3 and PIPs was held on the subject of Dignity Initiatives on the Issues of Transgender in the Country	In the light of commitment to a common cause youth involvement in the political affairs Young Parliamentarian Forum in collaboration with OXFAM celebrated Youth Day; “Youth Democracy and Road To 2030”.	SYPC was held under the title of PEACE & Harmony for Development with Partnership of PIPS and National Assembly of Pakistan



First SAARC Young Parliamentarians Conference:

Young Parliamentarian Forum (YPF) of National Assembly envisioned institutionalizing the idea of articulating Young Parliamentarians’ narratives through the first SAARC Young Parliamentarians Conference before the SAARC Summit. Delegates from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and hosts Pakistan participated in the two-day conference. Young parliamentarians from across South Asian countries have pledged to build bridges, give an alternative vision for the region and work for the promotion of peace, poverty alleviation and regional development. The primary goal of the conference

was peace and harmony for development with sub-themes of human rights, sustainable development, regional trade, cultural diplomacy, youth issues and social inclusion, the conference proved as a turning point in engaging young parliamentarians to share knowledge and formulate action plans to unveil a future vision of empowerment of their young population.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU)

The Project Management Unit established in July 2013 serves to streamline the donor-driven activity, negotiate meaningful work plans with optimum utilization of funds and acts as the central coordination cell for the Secretariat. PMU initiated following internship programs.

Internship Programs	No. of Interns Served	No. of Interns Serving
Young Parliamentary Associates 2013-2016	88	0
Voluntary Interns	69	07
Interns under Prime Minister Youth Scheme	53	23

RESEARCH SERVICES

The Research Center of the National Assembly provides research support to the legislators in the House Business and standing committees as well as provides impartial, relevant and authoritative assistance to Parliamentary delegations participating in international conferences, seminars and workshops.

Assistance to other Offices of National Assembly: The Research Center not only provides assistance to the Hon'ble Members but also to the Office of the Hon'ble Speaker, Office of the Leader of Opposition, Public Accounts Committee and Legislative Drafting Council. In the second half of the year 2016 research compiled more than one hundred and thirty reports for various multilateral and bilateral visits.

Research Assistance from June 2016 to November 2016				
Speakers Office	Committees	Research assistance provided to Parliamentary Delegations	Individual Members	Speeches/Miscellaneous
10	4	142	30	61

Digital Data Bank of Press Clippings: The Research Center maintains easily retrievable databank of press clippings of various newspapers for ready reference retrieval.

SPEAKER'S CALLS ON



Ambassador of Argentine Calls on Speaker National Assembly August 11, 2016: The Speaker said to strengthening Parliamentary ties, there is dire need for a comprehensive framework to cement people to people contacts. The Argentine Ambassador Mr. Ivan highly acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices and endeavors for global peace and security and further said that Pakistan has played a frontline role against the scourge of global terrorism which was acknowledged by the entire world. He further said Argentine attache's immense importance to its relations with Pakistan and exchange of Parliamentary can play to strengthen existing bilateral ties.

Outgoing Romanian Ambassador Calls on Speaker NA August 15, 2016: Outgoing Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Emilian Ion paid a farewell call on Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly in Parliament House. Eulogizing the services of the Ambassador Mr. Emilian Ion for promoting Pak-Romania Friendship, the Speaker said that broad-based bilateral relations with Pakistan have received a new impetus during his stay in Pakistan. While talking to the Ambassador, the Speaker outlined that Pakistan's political leadership has set out to forge deeper cooperation within the region and beyond and further added that relation with Romania is a stepping stone for Pakistan's broader outreach to European Union.



Turkish Ambassador Calls on Speaker NA - August 25, 2016: While speaking to the Ambassador of Turkey Mr. Sadik Babur Girgin in Parliament House, the speaker said that Turkey has always been a friend in need and stood by Pakistan in difficult times. He underlined the need for enhanced interaction between the parliamentarians of both the countries for further cementing the fraternal relations between the two countries. Turkish ambassador Sadik Babur Girgin on the occasion said that Pakistan and Turkey have unanimity of views on the political front and the cooperation between both the nations should be extended to all spheres of all mutual relations.



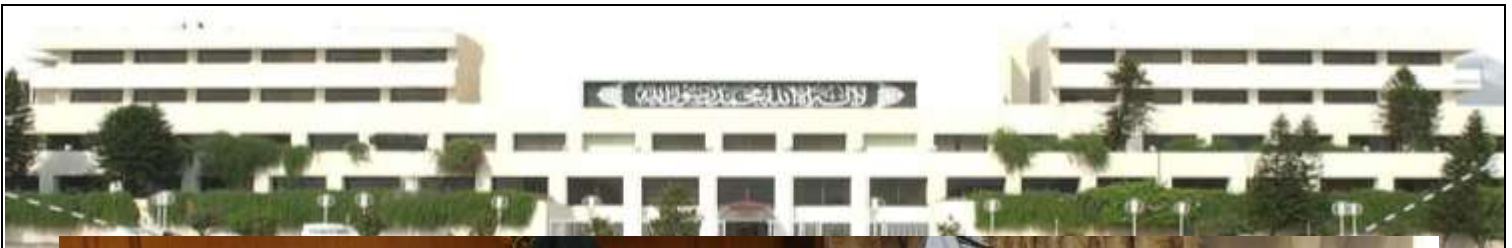
PICTURES GALLERY



Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq witnessing the Special Session of the Senate held to commemorate The 44th Foundation Day of Senate of Pakistan on 05.08.2016



Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing the Condolence reference held at Parliament House under the auspicious of Parliamentary Reporter Association to pay homage to Cameraman of Dawn and Ajj News who martyred in Quetta Bomb blast on 12.08.2016



Acting Speaker NA Murtaza Javed Abbasi wearing Black armband on the occasion of Black Day Being commemorated worldwide against the Indian Atrocities in held Jammu and Kashmir in Parliament House on 20.07.2016



Meeting of the Local Body Representatives from Karachi City with Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi in Parliament House on 3.08.2016