



PAKISTAN
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GOVERNANCE WATCH**Government Working****Kayani's Plea for Balancing Development and Defence**

Chief of Army Staff Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani said on Friday that it was the duty of the armed forces to maintain adequate capabilities and readiness to fulfill the tasks assigned. Addressing the participants of command and staff course at the Command and Staff College Quetta, he said for meaningful progress, a nation had to strike the right balance between the requirements of development and defence. He said no army operated in a vacuum rather it drew upon the support of nation to conduct its tasks in a manner that it contributed to the fulfillment of national polices.

Dawn - June 01, 2013

Nawaz Wants Common Agenda

Voted prime minister by the new National Assembly for a record third term, Nawaz Sharif proposed making a "common agenda" with political allies and foes to wade through a "jungle of problems" that he said had grown in Pakistan. In a speech to the assembly immediately after being elected leader of the house by more than two-thirds majority and over three hours before being sworn in by President Asif Ali Zardari at the presidency, he cited electricity shortages, law and order, poverty, corruption, agricultural and industrial progress and building infrastructure among the major priorities that he said his PML-N government would tackle without relent. But contrary to media speculations that he would do it, he withheld details of what he called a "comprehensive plan" prepared to tackle these problems, saying they would be disclosed in an address on an unspecified later date. The main focus of his 30-minute speech to a packed house and overflowing and often noisy visitors' galleries was on domestic problems and his professed desire to reach out to leaders of all political parties represented in parliament to share one another's thoughts and giving federal cooperation to all provincial governments no matter which party governed there. And the new prime minister seemed echoing the views of President Zardari by acknowledging that the enormity of Pakistan's "so many problems" was beyond the strength of a single party. Mr. Sharif, whose induction as prime minister ended more than 13 years in wilderness since being toppled in the Oct 12, 1999, coup by then army chief Gen Pervez Musharraf, secured 244 votes in the election through the parliamentary mode of open division - by recording one's preference in a register placed in different lobbies rather than secret ballot - with a token contest from Makhdoom Amin Fahim, parliamentary leader of the previously ruling PPP who got 42 votes and Makhdoom Javed Hashmi of PTI who got 31. That winning total, including new support from the 23-seat former PPP ally MQM and some other smaller groups, was 14 votes less than 258 votes each received by PML-N's Speaker Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Speaker Murtaza Javed Abbasi when the PPP had voted for them after withdrawing its own candidates for the two offices while the MQM and PTI had put up their own candidates for the offices.

Dawn - June 06, 2013

Gwadar, Karachi to Be Linked With Kashgar: PM

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced that Karachi and Gwadar would be linked by road and rail with Kashgar, China via Khunjrab to boost regional trade. In his maiden speech at the National Assembly after being elected as Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif referred to his meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during latter's recent visit to Pakistan in which they agreed to construct a rail track and road link from Kashgar to Gwadar, leading to Karachi. He said Chinese premier had asked him to constitute a task force for carrying out the feasibility of the projects and assured to form a similar team in China, so both the teams could work in cohesion. He lauded the handing over of Gwadar Port to China by previous government, which he said should be a free Port and have a special status. If the Port had not been handed over to China, we would not have been discussing this Port here.

Daily Times - June 06, 2013

Federal Cabinet to Be Sworn

According to sources, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Pervez Rashid, Ishaq Dar, Pir Sadaruddin Shah Rashdi, Murtaza Jatoi, Tariq Fatemi, Ahsan Iqbal, Abdul Qadir Baloch and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi will be taking the oath in the first phase of the cabinet formation. The oath will be administered by President Asif Ali Zardari at the President's House at 4pm. The sources said so far six portfolios have been finalised. Chaudhry Nisar is set to be appointed as the interior minister, Ishaq Dar as the finance minister, Tariq Fatemi as an adviser on foreign affairs, Pervez Rashid as information minister, Khawaja Asif as the water and power minister and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi as the minister for petroleum and natural resources, they maintained. A senior PML-N leader said that while the cabinet in the initial phase would consist of 10-12 ministers, it would eventually be expanded to 25 or 26 members, including state ministers and advisers. According to the PML-N leader, while a coalition partner from PML-Functional will be included in the cabinet, there is little chance of accommodating Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl in the initial round. The PML-N leader confirmed the portfolios of Nisar, Dar, Rashid, Khawaja Asif and Fatemi. He said there was a chance that Gen (retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch would be given the ministry of defence production. He added that Balighur Rehman and Arshad Leghari from southern Punjab would also be accommodated in the cabinet. The leader said, however, that the Khoso family was unlikely to be accommodated in the cabinet.

The Express Tribune - June 07, 2013

Budget 2013 by PML-N Government

More Taxes, Less Subsidies in New Budget Likely

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is set to present in the National Assembly the PML-N government's first budget with a difficult and ambitious fiscal adjustment of about Rs580 billion - 2.5 per cent of the GDP - by reducing subsidies and introducing additional revenue and administrative tax measures estimated to fetch Rs400bn. Overall size of the federal budget is estimated at about Rs3.5 trillion, while the tax revenue target has been pitched at Rs2.75tr, including the FBR's revenue target of Rs2.475tr. To restrict power sector losses, subsidies are targeted to be brought down to about Rs150bn from the current year's actual tariff differential subsidies of Rs380bn, against a budgeted allocation of Rs120bn. For this, the government plans to gradually increase electricity tariff for all consumers to bridge a whopping Rs6 per unit difference between rates

approved by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) and those notified. While providing direct subsidies to consumers with monthly consumption of up to 300 units, the tariff for higher categories will be substantially increased with additional imposition of a tax on consumption of over 1,000 units per month. Total subsidies for the next year have been put at Rs300bn. It has been estimated that Rs1.15 trillion will be spent on interest payments. A federal Public Sector Development Programme of Rs540bn has already been approved by the National Economic Council, while the allocation for defence has been estimated at Rs627bn.

The expenditure on running the civil government has been estimated at Rs278bn. The sources said a host of tax adjustments were being proposed, including increase in tax rates, withdrawal of exemptions, removal of distortions and doing away with Statutory Regulatory Orders, to generate about Rs400bn. The government would try to restrict fiscal deficit to about Rs1.4 trillion, about 5.9pc of the GDP, in line with Mr. Dar's desire to bring it down by 2.5pc of the GDP from the current year's Rs2tr - almost 8.5pc of the GDP, they said. The salaries of government employees have been proposed to be increased by 10pc, slightly higher than the expected inflation rate of eight per cent, and pensions by 15pc. However, the final decision in the regard will be taken by the prime minister during a cabinet meeting scheduled to be held to approve the budget for presentation before the assembly. While the rate of tax on sugar has been proposed to be raised to 16pc from the current eight per cent, fresh taxation is also expected on sale of fertiliser and packed dairy items. The burden on income tax payers is expected to be increased through adjustments in rates and changes in exemption limits. A five per cent additional duty is expected on edible oil, special higher taxation on vehicles of 1,800cc and above. Unregistered industrial and commercial consumers of gas and electricity face a five per cent levy. Under directives of the finance minister, the taxation proposals have a focus of three main points - facilitating local industrialists, broadening the tax base and bolstering revenue collection. Financial and political experts believe that the budget will focus on resolving the energy crisis by dealing with the circular debt of over Rs500bn.

Dawn - June 12, 2013

PML-N's 'Business Friendly' Budget

THE first Rs3.6 trillion budget of the Nawaz Sharif government, presented by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in the National Assembly within a week of the government formation, appears more of 'business friendly' than people friendly. The electorate that voted Nawaz Sharif to power might not easily accept additional burden of price increases through the increase in General Sales Tax (GST) by 1 per cent to 17 per cent. Their reaction will set the tone of debate in the National Assembly. The budget if approved in the current form may boost investment, revive growth and enable Pakistan to qualify for the IMF loan facility. The man on the street, however, might find the year ahead more challenging as his real income declines because of the inflationary impact of the proposed indirect taxation. The government in its first defining policy move proposed people to endure the pain of adjustments now, to enjoy gains of growth later. For economic stabilisation the budget 2014 increases the GST to 17 per cent and revises upward the income tax rates on salaries. Corporate Pakistan, which has been reluctant to invest in the country all through PPP rule during past five years resulting in depressed three per cent average growth, has been encouraged by revising downward the corporate tax rate by one per cent from 35 to 34 per cent with promise of decreasing it to 30 per cent in four years.

The budget is a typical PML N document reflecting its economic philosophy of unfettered market economy, it speaks of homework the party must have done long before assuming power. It has all those signature initiatives that are considered hallmarks of Sharif's rule in Pakistan.

There are all kinds of low ticket initiatives for public consumption (youth internship, micro credit, income support, technical training, laptop distribution, etc) but the focus of the development budget would be on infrastructure projects (motorways and railways). FM Ishaq Dar proposed upward revision in GST from 16 to 17 per cent on the floor of the assembly. It would make all products dearer by at least the same percentage, though the price spiral often enhance the impact of inflationary measures and lead to more than proportional rise in prices. He projected to chop circular debt of energy sector to reduce by as much as about half of current Rs500 billion in 60 days. It was, however, not clear thus far how he intends to do that. The budget assumes to cover the revenue shortfall through foreign inflows. The details of sources of these inflows are not clear. There seems to be meek effort to encourage documentation by introducing tax incentive of two per cent for firms dealing with registered suppliers and distributors.

Dawn - June 13, 2013

Defence Expenditure Raised By 15pc

The budget documents for fiscal year 2013-14 placed before the National Assembly showed that a sum of Rs627bn had been allocated for the defence services as compared to Rs545bn originally allocated for the outgoing fiscal year, which ends on June 30. The Rs545bn figure was, however, revised to Rs570.18bn in the budget unveiled. The annual increments have been kept around 10 per cent over the past few years. However, the figures are revised at the conclusion of the fiscal year in an attempt to conceal the actual raise. Furthermore, expenditures on the nuclear programme and military acquisitions aren't disclosed, making it difficult to know the real size of allocation for defence. The defence services allocation for 2013-14 is about 15.73 per cent of the total budgetary outlay of Rs3.985 trillion. It is 2.72 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a measure often used by analysts to assess military spending by different countries. While many other government expenditures were cut by 30 per cent, defence spending, much like debt servicing and pay and allowances of civil servants, was spared. The army got the biggest slice in the defence budget with an allocation of Rs301.54bn. The PAF and Navy got Rs120.1bn and Rs62.8bn, respectively. On the whole, the total budget for the Ministry of Defence was Rs637.59bn, which included allocations for Defence Division (bureaucracy at defence ministry), Airport Security Force, Met Department, Survey of Pakistan and educational institutions in cantonments and garrisons. The government also earmarked Rs3545.457m for projects of the Defence Division and Rs2300m for the Defence Production Division in the Public Sector Development Programme for 2013-14.

Dawn - June 13, 2013

Budgetary Measures: PML-N's Manifesto Says Some Other Story

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) did not deliver the pledges it made in its manifesto in the Federal Budget 2013-14 as it ignored increase in minimum wage, termination of unbeneficial trade agreements, decreasing tax, sufficient credit facility and others. It is worth adding that PML-N made tall claims in its manifesto before general elections but did not honour many of them in their biggest opportunity in the budget. The PML-N claimed in its manifesto that there will be no increase in tax rates as once the tax system becomes fully operational, tax rates will be reduced over a period of time and sales tax rationalised by ensuring standard rate for all items and broadening the scope of sales tax, but Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in his budget speech said that in view of serious resource constraint it is imperative that additional resources

should be mobilised immediately. Accordingly, it is proposed to raise the standard rate of sales tax from 16 percent to 17 percent. The second claim was to develop and expand industrial parks both for large and small industries particularly in the under-developed areas, while clusters will be developed for industries such as gems and jewellery, leather, garments, fans, cutlery, Halal meat, sports goods, furniture, crockery and cooking utensils, but sadly nothing of it was mentioned in the budget 2013-14 by the PML-N.

The claims regarding power sector were to reform distribution companies (DISCOs) through privatisation; ending cross subsidy among DISCOs; prepaid billing system to be improved for bill collection; and reducing bad debts. Yet again nothing was announced in this regard in the budget. Restoration of industrial sector was also a priority of PML-N as they claimed in the manifesto that closed industries will be revived through appropriate and effective measures. PML-N ensured that ample credit will be available to the private sector, and there will be steady supply of energy to the industrial hubs, but nothing was mentioned in the budget. Similarly, development of Thar coal field and setting up of at least 5,000 megawatts (MW) of new coal-fired power plants under the IPP mode in Sindh was also ignored by the government as only 100 MW Thar Coal Gasification Project was announced in the budget. PML-N claimed in its manifesto that they might end some regional trading arrangements, bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) or Unilateral GSP type programmes considering them as a disadvantage for exporters, but exporters could not find any such remedy in the budget. Most important claim was to have a specially designed employment programme to generate jobs at community and neighborhood level.

In the housing sector, PML-N claimed to develop on a public-private partnership mode 1,000 clusters of 500 houses each for low-income families, and the industry will be encouraged to expand investment and provide employment opportunities in the adjoining areas. However, they announced only a mortgage facility of Rs 1.5 million to Rs 5.0 million at a mark-up rate of 8.0 percent and only 50,000 people will benefit from this scheme. The government also did not bring any good news for labourers in the budget despite that they claimed that the minimum wage for workers will be gradually enhanced to Rs 15,000 per month. They also claimed that rights of workers will be ensured and the role of collective bargaining agents will be made more effective keeping in view the relevant ILO Conventions. Meanwhile, a claim was also made to make a cut in interest rate. Currently interest rate cut is overdue owing to persistent downward inflation for last five months as upcoming monetary policy is due on June 21. Now, the business sector of the country is awaiting a cut in interest rate by the new government. Interestingly Dar said that the newly-elected government would fulfill all its promises it had made during the election campaign, saying that the budget for fiscal year 2013-14 was the manifestation of the same pledges.

Daily Times - June 14, 2013

Government to Reject Tariff Raise Condition for Fresh IMF Loan

The government has decided not to accept the condition of quarterly increases in power and gas tariffs to qualify for a fresh International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan programme during the six-day talks with the international lending agency. Pakistan and IMF are set to start six-month review of the country's economy under the Post Programme Monitoring (PPM). The IMF mission was to arrive in the federal capital. Pakistan had earlier refused to hold PPM review in Dubai and Abu Dhabi on the request of the IMF and had insisted on holding the review meeting in Islamabad. Official sources at the Finance Ministry said that the PPM review would last for five days and talks on fresh IMF loan programme will be held on the sixth and final day. Official

sources said that Pakistan needs foreign inflows at affordable programme conditionalities and in case IMF demanded increase in power and gas tariffs on a quarterly basis it would not be acceptable for the government. In case the terms of fresh loan programme with IMF are favourable then \$3 billion to \$5 billion fresh loan programme would be agreed with a repayment period of up to ten years, sources added. But if the terms of fresh loan programme are not favourable, then the government will not go for it and instead rely on foreign inflows that have been budgeted i.e. \$1.2 billion from auction of 3G licenses, realization of \$800 million from PTCL privatization proceeds from Etisalat and realisation of arrears of Coalition Support Fund (CSF) from United States. The government is expecting \$3 billion foreign inflows from these three heads which would be enough for the repayment of \$3 billion Stand-By-Arrangement loan during the fiscal year 2013-14. The sources added that realisation of these foreign inflows would help maintain foreign exchange reserves at present level and there would be no more pressure on Pak Rupee. However, reforms for gradual resource mobilisation, better expenditure management for reduction in budget deficit, containing bank and non-bank borrowing, strict observance of austerity and limiting of debt in accordance with Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act (FBR&L) are expected to be the priority areas. The present government has already developed and started implementing an economic road map, aiming to bring fiscal deficit down to 6.3% from 8.8% in the ongoing fiscal year, 5% in next year and achieving 4% sustainable limit of fiscal deficit by third fiscal year.

Daily Times - June 19, 2013

Shah Dismayed Over No Reduction in GST

The Leader of opposition in the National Assembly, Syed Khurshed Shah expressed his dismay for government refusal to reduce GST standard rate from 17% to 16%. Expressing his views on budget windup speech by the finance minister, Shah said in the house that media was highlighting the adverse impact of increase in GST rate on common man and finance minister instead had strongly defended his position while announcing no reduction in the rate. He said flood of price hike was being predicted in the media as well as general public. He took serious notice of finance minister's remarks during his windup speech and mentioned that previous government had allocated Rs.40 billion for Benazir Income Support Programme. Shah clarified that PPP government had allocated Rs.60 billion for BISP and according to the revised estimates for the outgoing fiscal year 2012-13, around Rs.58 billion spending out of the total amount has been reported. He also expressed his dismay over marginal 20% increase in BISP disbursement from Rs.1000 to Rs.1200 per month and said due to high inflation and currency fluctuation the actual value of Rs.1000 have gone down to Rs.500. He was of the view that government should have increased the BISP monthly disbursements from Rs.1000 per month to Rs.2000 per month to benefit the poor. He said BISP also had a set of safety net programmes including Wasela-e-Haq programme, Health Insurance Programme and Skill Development Programme.

Daily Times - June 23, 2013

Opposition Criticizes PML-N's 'IMF Budget'

Opposition parties in the National Assembly here on Thursday dubbed the federal budget 2013-14 an "IMF budget" and said next four budgets of PML-N would also be "IMF budgets". Opposition parties rejected the heavy taxation measures and feared that these would place an additional financial burden on the general public. Taxation measures introduced through

amended Finance Bill were termed “mini budget” and opposition parties feared that such types of budgets would continue to follow.

Speaking on the occasion of the approval of Finance Bill 2013, Pakistan People’s Party leader and former finance minister Syed Naveed Qamar said that federal government has dropped a bombshell on the general public by taking harsh taxation measures. “Entire nation was expecting relief in the budget, but newly elected government has shown no regard for the people and this is shameful,” he said. He criticised the inclusion of non-revenue legislation in the Finance Bill and said that government has not even spared the parliament, putting restrictions on approval of perks and privileges of Chairman Senate, Speaker National Assembly and even members of the parliament.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi, parliamentary leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf agreed with the PPP stance and said that government has presented within 21 days a federal budget and through amendments in finance bill a mini budget. He said that it shows that federal government would continue to present such mini budgets. He also mentioned that IMF mission has also endorsed PTI’s point of view that tax collection target for 2013-14 was unrealistic. “The IMF, the general public, the industry, no one is happy with this budget,” he said. PTI’s Dr. Arif Alvi complained that government had ignored the tax proposals submitted by PTI and put additional burden of indirect taxes on the general public in the budget. PPP’s Dr Nafisa Shah termed massive imposition of withholding tax on services sector as violation of provincial taxation rights and said that it was a clear violation of provincial mandate. She also termed 5% increase in withholding tax on mobile phone usage as tax on common man.

Mutahida Qaumi Movement’s Syed Asif Hussain while criticising the budget said that earlier every government had to import federal finance minister on the dictation of IMF. “However there is no longer a need to import a finance minister as we have in the country those who would serve the interests of the IMF,” he said. He said previous government had refused to accept R-GST condition of IMF due to its negative impact on the general public. “But the increase in GST has served this IMF conditionality. The first budget of this government is an IMF dictated budget and next four budgets would also be IMF dictated budgets,” said Hussain.

Daily Times - June 28, 2013

Provincial Budgets 2013

New Taxes in Sindh Budget Proposed

The provincial government has decided in principle to impose new taxes in the Sindh budget 2013-14 in order to generate revenue. The new budget, which is scheduled to be presented in the Sindh Assembly on June 17, is expected to be a deficit one, according to sources. They said that the outgoing financial year’s budget was also a deficit one, to the tune of Rs7 billion. The proposals of new taxes had been moved by the excise and taxation department, Sindh revenue board, board of revenue and mines and mineral development department, the sources said. The government was considering bringing ‘structural, administrative and managerial reforms’ in the revenue collection agencies of the province to increase the provincial resources ‘without increasing tax rate’, according to official sources privy to the development. Official sources said there was a proposal to increase pay of the government employees up to 15pc. A senior official privy to the recently held meetings, which were chaired by the Sindh chief minister, about the budgetary proposals said that there was a proposal to provide uniform cover of health insurance to all government employees but so far it had not been approved by the competent authority.

On the development side, another official said, there was a proposal for setting up of an 'infrastructure development authority' to ensure that uplift funds were properly utilized. The official added that each year billions of rupees were spent. "This year around Rs190 billion annual development programs has been proposed," he disclosed. The official explained that the need for establishing the infrastructure body was felt, because there were reports about 'inefficiency and corruption' in executing agencies of the provincial government with the result that billions of rupees were spent every year without the intended results being achieved. He was of the opinion that one positive thing that might emerge from such authority was professionalism. It would be an 'autonomous body,' that would hire professionals, said the official. He said that if established, the proposed authority would take up projects worth over Rs1 billion. The source recalled that this idea of having a separate professional development body to 'evaluate and take up the big uplift projects' in Sindh had been conceived when Dr Kaiser Bengali was adviser to the chief minister for planning and development. The idea to have a separate professional development authority had also emerged from the perceived first successful model of 'Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas road,' a first project that was widely considered to be free from inefficiency and corruption. This was also believed to be the first uplift project initiated on a public-private partnership basis that did not result in cost increase as it had been completed on time.

Dawn - June 15, 2013

Balochistan CM to Present Budget

Despite the appointment of the governor and election of the chief minister, the coalition partners could not reach a power-sharing formula which caused a delay in formation of the provincial cabinet. "In the absence of the cabinet, the chief minister will present the budget in the assembly," Jan Mohammad Jamali, spokesman for the Balochistan government. The decision was taken at a meeting presided over by Chief Minister Malik and attended by the parliamentary leaders of PML-N, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) and National Party (NP). The meeting also attended by PML-N Balochistan chief Sardar Sanaullah Zehri and PkMAP leader Nawab Ayaz Jomezai discussed the salient features of the budget. The PML-N is demanding the post of senior minister, besides portfolios of finance, planning and development, irrigation and communication and works. The sources said the PML-N was of the opinion that despite being a majority party it had given the governorship to PkMAP and the post of chief minister to the NP. "Now it is the right of the party to demand important portfolios," a senior PML-N leader said. The PkMAP and NP were also asking for these important ministries.

Daily Times - June 19, 2013

Balochistan Budget Debate Call For Improving Government Schools

Members of the Balochistan Assembly from treasury benches said that huge funds allocated in the provincial budget for health and education sectors would bring improvement in people's lives. They said 300 primary schools would be established in the province and Rs5 billion had been allocated for scholarships to be provided to students. They stressed the need for improving the condition of government schools and asked the government to take notice of the absence of schoolteachers from their duties. The legislators said allocation for the health sector was aimed to improve health facilities in public sector hospitals. They expressed concern over the condition of hospitals in rural areas, saying the government should take action against

doctors who frequently remain absent. The legislators also asked the government to solve the problem of drinking water shortage in Quetta.

Opposition members Zamarak Khan Piralizai, Mufti Gulab Shah and Maulana Mahazullah Musakhel cautioned the government against non-allocation of funds for ongoing development projects. They criticised the government for not identifying projects in the public sector development programme.

Dawn - June 25, 2013

National Assembly

11-Member Cabinet Considered

The PML-N leadership at the meeting also considered having an 11-member federal cabinet in the first phase. The names discussed include Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Ahsan Iqbal, Khwaja Asif, who is likely to get the portfolio of water and power, Khurram Dastagir, Ishaq Dar, Khwaja Saad Rafiq, Abdul Qadir Baloch, Pir Sadruddin Rashidi and Saira Afzal. However, Senator Rashid said that no final decision had been taken yet.

Dawn - June 01, 2013

Excited PML-N Supporters Create Ugly Scenes in NA

Chaotic scenes marred the National Assembly session that elected Mian Nawaz Sharif as prime minister to the extent that Speaker Ayaz Sadiq was obliged to intervene personally to bring calm and apologies for the mismanagement before commencing the official business. The mismanagement was visible both inside and outside the House. It started with the visitors invited to the event jostling for space in the parking lot and lasted throughout the session. Once inside the assembly hall, they had to jostle for seats in the visitors' galleries. Perhaps the worst came when jubilant PML-N supporters scuffled with the office-bearers of the Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) who tried to stop them from invading the press gallery. When PRA representatives insisted on the invaders vacating the seats reserved for media persons, the PML-N wallahs came to blows and threatened the journalists with "dire consequences". They claimed to have come to the house on the invitation of Hamza Shahbaz Sharif and refused to budge from their seats. That led PRA to boycott the house proceedings. Noticing the disturbance and fracas in the press gallery, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq himself came to the place and got the seats vacated for the media corps. At the outset of the National Assembly session, the speaker accepted the responsibility of the mismanagement which, he said, was caused by more cards being issued to the visitors than the seating capacity in the galleries. Mr. Sadiq said he would ensure that such a situation do not arise in future. Probably, this is the first time that a speaker of the National Assembly had to personally get involved in the seating arrangements when there were 1,300 employees to look after the affairs of the house. He said over the years, incompetent people having strong political connections had been hired in the NA Secretariat. Outside the house, there was not even a single assembly staff member to man the parking area of the house. Because of the haphazard parking by the visitors in the absence of ushers, many newcomers had to return without attending the session. With a little bit of coordination and proper planning, arrangements could have been much better, but, the assembly secretariat seemed least interested.

Dawn - June 06, 2013

Senate

Dar Resigns as Opposition Leader in Senate

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ishaq Dar has resigned from the post of the opposition leader in Senate, as he is likely to become a federal minister for finance. According to details, Dar has sent his resignation to the Senate chairman, stating that he was resigning from the slot as his party emerged as the leading party in the National Assembly. Ishaq Dar has said his party was not working for evolving a consensus on the election of the leader of the House in the National Assembly but was in contact with the PPP to withdraw its candidate. “It will be a positive sign if Nawaz Sharif is elected as a consensus prime minister, but it is not so far possible as the PTI has taken a categorical stance for fielding Javed Hashmi as its candidate for the slot.”

Daily Times - June 05, 2013

BALUCHISTAN WATCH**Governance Watch****Newly Elected Balochistan Assembly**

The speaker of the outgoing Balochistan Assembly, Syed Matiullah Agha, will administer the oath to 64 newly-elected members of the assembly. The election on one seat was postponed because of the killing of a candidate. The assembly secretariat announced that no guest would be allowed to witness proceedings of the session due to security reasons. The assembly administration asked members not to bring any guest with them. According to sources, no other business was on the agenda of the first session except administering the oath to new members. The election of new the speaker and the deputy speaker will be held later in another session after nomination of candidates for these spots. Most of the newly-elected members arrived in Quetta from different parts of the province. The leaders of three main parties, who have decided to form a coalition government in the province, also reached Quetta after holding a meeting with PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif in Lahore to reach consensus on the name of the chief minister.

Dawn - June 01, 2013

Civil Society Endorses Dr Malik for Balochistan CM

The civil society called for the appointment of Dr Abdul Malik Baloch as chief minister of Balochistan. Various civil society organizations, in a statement said that “it is time to pay back for all the atrocities and unfair policies against Balochistan. They demanded that the incoming government give full support to nationalist parties and appoint a person of a high caliber like Dr Abdul Malik Baloch as the next chief minister. It said that the civil society does not take sides of individuals or any specific party. “We only take side with our issues but in this case we cannot move forward with peace process, finding missing persons, having some sense of accountability, healing or development, if we keep having the same leaders who themselves are one of the major causes of the problem.” The statement further said, “Thus, the leadership of Balochistan has become an issue for us. The governance and self-serving leaders are one of the biggest problems in this complex context. Only a strong leader from the people of Balochistan can hold other factions creating problems in Balochistan accountable. Please make history and change the pattern of appointing leadership in Balochistan. We fully support Dr Malik’s appointment who is one of the candidates being considered for the position.” The petition for Dr Malik’s appointment as Balochistan chief minister has been endorsed by 172 organisations, and individuals, including Dr Fouzia Saeed, along with 2 consortiums with 220 member organisations. Some of the organizations are Mehargarh, Institute of Social Sciences, Council of Social Sciences, Khyber Youth Organisation, Culture Development Organisation, and Society for Appraisal & Women Empowerment in Rural Areas, People Youth Organization and Institute of Culture and Development.

Daily Times - June 01, 2013

PM Calls for Reconciliation in Balochistan

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif directed Balochistan Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch to initiate a process of reconciliation with estranged Baloch elements. He asked the chief minister

to convey his desire for their participation in the national mainstream. Nawaz also congratulated Dr Abdul Malik on his unanimous election as chief minister of Balochistan and assured him that the federal government would extend all possible assistance to his government. Meanwhile, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) Chairman General Khalid Shamim Wyne called on Prime Minister Nawaz and apprised him about professional matters relating to armed forces. Separately, in a meeting with Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Asif Sandila who called on him, Nawaz said his government attached the highest priority to strengthening the armed forces and adequately equipping them to meet all challenges. Also, Prime Minister Nawaz welcomed Microsoft chief Bill Gates' offer to provide assistance to Pakistan in controlling diseases. The prime minister was talking to Special Representative of Bill Gates and Melinda Foundation for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Dr Waqar Ajmal. Bill Gates extended his offer for supporting the government of Pakistan in the health sector and extending financial and technical assistance to it as far as possible. Dr Waqar Ajmal delivered a letter of Bill Gates, congratulating the prime minister on assumption of his office. He expressed the confidence that the new government in Pakistan would lay special emphasis on immunisation and eradication of fatal diseases including polio.

Daily Times - June 12, 2013

ELECTION WATCH**Political Stakeholders & Elections****ECP Denies News about Recounting, Thumb Print Verification in NA-125**

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has rejected news pertaining to recounting of votes and verification of thumb impressions in some constituencies of Punjab Assembly as well as National Assembly constituency (NA-125), Lahore. A spokesman of the ECP clarified that after the issuance of notification for the establishment of election tribunals, such decisions is yet to be taken by them.

Pakistan Today - June 01, 2013

ECP Urged To Remove Flaws before Local Bodies' Elections

The inefficiencies and mistakes of the Election Commission of Pakistan have been exposed during the general elections and the ECP did not rectify its flaws before the Local Bodies Elections to the satisfaction of the PTI and the PML-Q, the parties would not accept the polls results. The coming government needs to, at least, clearly mention its policies and line-of-action regarding drone strikes, energy crisis and economic revival. If the government does not take the people and all major stakeholders, including political parties, onboard in the first three months, it will fail to benefit from the prevailing goodwill. If the PML-N government chooses to stick to the foreign policy stances it touted in its election campaign, it would create problems for itself. The accountability in Pakistan has always been in favor of the rulers and the sudden actions against last government officials, if continued, can cause problems; the coming government needs to learn from the culture of tolerance exhibited by the previous government against political witch hunting.

Political analyst Professor Dr Hassan Askari Rizvi said that the recent alliances and additions to the PMLN government have strengthened its position. The government would have to show clear policy in the sectors of economy, energy crisis and anti-terrorism. Enterprising economic policies generating employment opportunities need to be clearly set out to send a public-friendly image. Funds to IPPS for immediate addition of energy to the national grid, exploitation of coal reserves and mega hydel projects are to be fixed for the energy crisis. Dual policy of condemning and secretly agreeing to drone strikes should come to an end. The emotional hysteria created against drones has made it difficult for the government to be flexible on the issue. Though the global community acknowledges that drones are illegal it also questions if exporting extremism is legit, to which we sadly have no answer. Finger-pointing was easy sitting in the opposition. The government would need to stop spending loads on pompous projects and should focus on real issues. The PMLN government needs to take a crystal clear stance on drones' strikes with no ambiguity to fulfill its vows to the people. The ECP 'efficiency' stood exposed after the flaws in the general elections. Until the ECP rectified its flaws to the satisfaction of the PML-Q, it won't accept the results.

PTI leader Hammad Azhar held the same stance regarding the ECP, saying the PTI would not accept the Local Bodies elections results if matters remained the same. He said that the PMLN government was morally and politically unjustified in saying it could not do anything because the national kitty was empty. He said that, with such clear mandate, the government could not resort to passing the buck to anyone. He said that the health and education departments needed

to be atop all other priorities, besides restoring the sovereignty of the country by stopping drone strikes. He objected to the expanding jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and said that it was infringing upon the powers of the parliament and other institutions. PML-N MPA Azma Bukhari said the PMLN had done its homework and formulated a comprehensive plan for solving the energy crisis. She said the installation of the Nandipur, Chichoki Malliyan power plants, and revival of the work on Ghazi Barotha, installation of run on canal projects and payment to power companies through security bonds were chief prongs of this plan. She mentioned that the PMLN government was going to lay down a National Security Policy after consensus with all the stake holders. It was also planning to impose educational emergency for the true bright future of the nation, she added.

Daily Times - June 03, 2013

ECP Directive over Poll Petitions

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) asked the election tribunals to ensure that poll petitions were decided expeditiously and as per the law which required them to decide the pleas within 120 days. ECP Secretary Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan said the tribunals should grant adjournments only in exceptional circumstances. He invited the attention of the tribunals towards section 67 (1A) of the Representation of the People Act (ROPA), 1976 under which the election tribunals were required to proceed with the trial of the election petition on day-to-day basis and no adjournment shall be granted to any party for more than seven days and that too on payment of costs as the tribunal may determine and the decision thereof shall be taken within four months from its receipt. When contacted, an official of the Commission confirmed that dozens of petitions filed after 2008 elections were still pending with the election tribunals. He, however, said it was in this background that a decision to hire retired district and sessions judges as election tribunals on contract basis for one year had been taken. He said previously, the tribunals comprised sitting judges of the high courts, who often found it difficult to dispose of election petitions within stipulated time due to the heavy workload of regular cases. He said since the election tribunals had been formed for a specific purpose, they will be hearing cases on day-to-day basis to dispose of the petitions within 120 days. He said under section 64 of ROPA, the tribunal shall have the powers of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and shall be deemed to be a civil court within the meanings of sections 476, 480 and 482 of the CrPc. He said under section 65 (3) of ROPA, a witness who answered all questions which he was required to answer shall be entitled to receive a certificate of indemnity from the tribunal and an answer given by him to a question put by or before the tribunal shall not, except in the case of any criminal proceedings for perjury in respect of his evidence, be admissible in evidence against him in any civil or criminal proceedings. He said any person aggrieved by a decision of a tribunal, within 30 days of the announcement of the decision, appeal to the Supreme Court and the decision of the Supreme Court on such appeal shall be final.

Dawn - June 08, 2013

ECP Orders Re-Election in NA-103

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has annulled the results of NA-103 Hafizabad and ordered re-election in the constituency. The commission, in a statement, said the decision has been made after receiving complaints of irregularities at a large scale. Liaquat Bhatti, an independent candidate, was declared successful from the constituency.

Daily Times - June 13, 2013

ECP Issues List of Lawmakers Who Vacated Additional Seats

According to the ECP, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif vacated NA-68 Sargodha seat, PTI chief Imran Khan vacated NA-1 Peshawar and NA-71 Mianwali seats, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif vacated NA-129 Lahore, PP-161 Lahore and PP-247 Rajanpur seats, JUI-F head Maulana Fazlur Rehman vacated NA-25 DI Khan, NA-27 Lakki Marwat seats, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Parvez Khattak vacated NA-5 Noshehra seat and former KP CM Ameer Haider Hoti vacated PK-23 Mardan seat. Meanwhile, KP Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser vacated NA-13 Swabi seat, PTI President Makhdoom Javed Hashmi vacated NA-48 Islamabad seat, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan vacated PP-6 Rawalpindi seat, Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Muhammad Asif vacated PP-123 Sialkot seat, PML-N leader Hamza Shahbaz vacated PP-142 Lahore seat and PML-Q leader Chaudhry Moonis Elahi vacated PP-118 Mandi Bahauddin seat. Further, Jamshed Dasti vacated NA-117 Muzaffargarh seat.

The ECP stated that by-polls on these seats would be held after Eidul Fitr. By-elections will be held on 16 NA and 22 provincial assembly seats. Quite a few politicians, including Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, PTI chief Imran Khan, JUI-F head Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Parvez Khattak, former KP CM Ameer Haider Hoti, KP Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser, PTI President Makhdoom Javed Hashmi, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Asif, Chaudhry Moonis Elahi, PML-N leader Hamza Shahbaz and Jamshed Dasti, were elected on more than one seat in the May 11 polls.

Daily Times - June 14, 2013

ECP Ready to Hold Local Bodies' Election: CEC

Chief Election Commissioner Fakhruddin G Ebrahim said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was ready to hold local bodies' election. Talking to journalists at the Lahore High Court, he said that for the first time in the history of Pakistan, power had transferred from one democratic set-up to another. He said that some mistakes might have been committed during the electoral process, but they were not deliberate. For the first time, the voter turnout was 60 per cent and women in large numbers also exercised their right to vote.

Daily Times - June 21, 2013

'Recent Polls Were the Most Transparent Ones': CEC

Chief Election Commissioner Justice (Rtd) Fakhruddin G Ebrahim said that the recently held general election was more transparent than the past elections in the country, and that the ECP for the very first time had been successful in virtually providing a level playing field to all candidates. Chairing a meeting at the office of the Punjab election commissioner, he said that the provincial commissions had done a good job by successfully conducting the general election in a highly challenging situation across the country. He said that the ECP had been successful in fulfilling its constitutional obligation and bringing out reasonable results despite all hurdles and difficulties. On this occasion, Punjab Election Commissioner Mehboob Anwer thanked the chief election commissioner for acknowledging the efforts of the staff and for visiting Punjab right after the general election. Later, the chief election commissioner also visited the election

tribunal, established in Lahore, headed by District and Sessions Judge (Rtd) Saifur Rehman, for hearing election petitions.

Daily Times - June 22, 2013

Political Parties

Pakistan People's Party (PPP)

PPP Wins Two NA, Two SA Seats after Re-Polling

PM gives cabinet 15-day deadline to set action plan. Faqir Sher Muhammad won from NA-229 by securing 86,742 votes. He was followed by independent candidate Arbab who bagged 84,877 votes. PPP's Pir Noor Shah has won from NA-230 by securing 59,528 votes, followed by PTI's Shah Mehmood Qureshi with 58,296 votes. Similarly, PPP candidates won Sindh Assembly seats from PS 62 and PS-17. PS-62 was won by PPP candidate Makhdoom Khaliq-uz-Zaman with 33,450 votes, while his PML opponent Arbab Anwar Jabbar came in second with 28,895 votes, as per unofficial results. PS-63 was won by PPP's Dost Ali Rahimoon by 31,839 votes. PML candidate Dr Ghulam Haider Samijo came in second with 27,926 votes, as per unofficial results. The ECP had announced the re-election as the administration had failed to conduct the election on May 11 at 47 polling stations, most were either set on fire or ransacked by miscreants belonging to rival political parties. Repolling was conducted by the ECP at polling stations of National Assembly and provincial assembly seats in Tharparkar and Kashmore, under the supervision of the army, Rangers and police. PPP candidate Sardar Muqem Khoso, who earlier lost the PS-14 seat from Jacobabad, emerged victorious after recounting at polling station No 38. According to the May 11 election results, PML-N candidate Aslam Abro had earlier won the seat. Khoso, who was not satisfied with the results, moved Sindh High Court which ordered recounting at polling station No 38 set up at Government Primary School Hawaldar Brohi. The recounting was done under the supervision of the District Returning Officer (DRO), District and Sessions Judge Jacobabad Amjad Hussain Bohio and Returning Officer Ramesh Lal. Khoso was declared the winner after the recounting with 15,838 votes, while Abro lost with a close margin securing 15,776 votes.

The News - June 03, 2013

Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML - N)

PML-N Makes the Ultimate Sacrifice

In a rare show of political graciousness and to bring some solace to the annoyed Baloch nationalists, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif has dole out chief minister slot to National Party (NP) President Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, besides announcing that next governor would be from the other junior coalition partner Pakhtunkhawa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP). Nawaz assured all out support of federal government in bringing peace and tranquility in the restive province and made it loud and clear that a corruption-free and efficient government would be established in the province which would serve the cause of the people and would lessen their sufferings. He pledged to introduce a culture of merit in the province and said they would not let anyone loot and plunder the public money. Nawaz said that the forces against dictators and usurpers of public rights were standing with him and they would jointly heal the wounds inflicted by the dictatorial regimes in the province. He also made it clear that no one would be allowed to violate

the constitution and writ of the government would be ensured. He said the name of Dr Abdul Malik for the slot of CM was finalised with consensus and so would be the decision of giving the slot of governor to PkMAP. Achakzai said the decision would help in making a new Pakistan. He said Balochistan has many problems, which could be tackled through joint efforts. Achakzai thanked Nawaz Sharif on behalf of Baloch and Pashtun leadership for the good gesture and said they would stand with him and Pakistan in future. PML-N Provincial President Sanaullah Zehri, who himself was an aspirant for the CM slot, said they would extend full cooperation to the new chief minister. He said that only by overcoming the problems of law and order and corruption they could be able to achieve Nawaz Sharif's vision of a new Pakistan. Earlier, there was a deadlock over the issue of CM slot until Saturday and the PML-N chief again summoned his Balochistan chapter party leader Sardar Sanaullah Zehri and central leader Nawabzada Changez Marri to Murree on Sunday. Later, he chaired a meeting to deliberate on the issue which was attended by Mir Hasil Bezinjo and Mehmood Achakzai. Some political analysts were of the view that Nawaz Sharif was quite serious regarding Balochistan and wanted there a responsible government which could lead the province towards normalcy and prosperity. They said that was why, despite having strength, Nawaz wanted a coalition government with nationalist forces and was seriously considering honoring recommendation of PkMAP.

The Nation - June 03, 2013

Pakistan Tehreek - e - Insaf (PTI)

Murmurs of Dissent within PTI over Women's Seat Nominations

With the elections safely concluded, the post polls period has emerged with murmurs of dissent amongst the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s members as an internal conflict on awarding a woman's reserved seats tickets has surfaced. Fouzia Kasuri, who organized the party's women's wing, raised funds for the party through several overseas visits and defended the PTI valiantly in the media, has targeted the top leadership for ignoring her in the allotment of reserved seats' tickets. PTI's female workers held demonstrations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) against the alleged preference for Pervez Khattak and Asad Qaisar's close relatives in nominations for women's reserved seats. Kasuri's reaction is expected to add fuel to the fire and create problems for the party's top leaders, as she enjoys tremendous popularity amongst the party's women workers, having served two terms as women's wing president. Despite her many sacrifices for the party, including her foreign nationality and career, the top leadership had denied her the primary position in its nomination for the women's reserved seats in the National Assembly. Also referring to tweets exchanged between PTI Secretary General Naeem-ul-Haq and Kasuri are proof that she had been promised the number one slot by Khan: in response to Haq's tweet which said, "Women's Seats NA: IK (Imran Khan) committed first place to (Shireen) Mazari months ago because she is PTI's top expert in foreign policy/defense". At this juncture, another PTI London Information Secretary Dr Fouzia Sadiq interceded with: "@FauziaKasuri your contributions to PTI outweigh those of any other PTIan. May be a pressure against PTI & you would have been at No.1."

Sadiq was referring to Dr Shireen Mazari and her daughter Imaan Hazir Mazari's revolt just before the elections, when both issued statements against Imran Khan and the PTI and resigned from their offices. On September 25, 2012, Mazari, resigning as PTI central vice president stated, "the party's program has been taken over by 'big money' and this has compromised the party elections." However, on March 18 Mazari rejoined the PTI. Some PTI leaders opined that she had resigned after the PTI's popularity graph showed a decline, returning after Imran Khan won South and central Punjab's people during the election campaign. Another source in the PTI said

that the problem was that Khan preferred technical experts over politicians. It is often witnessed that Khan develops a liking for technocrats and so always takes their advice. In the PTI's top leadership meetings, he always champions the line adopted by Asad Umar, Jahangir Tareen or Shireen Mazari and does not listen to the political advice of Makhdoom Javed Hashmi or Shah Mahmood Qureshi ". The source added that Umar and Mazari had influenced the party's decisions with fatal consequences at times. This is what happened when the PTI could not decide on Tahirul Qadri's protest; they failed to forge alliances before and after the polls and failed to award party tickets to the right people.

Pakistan Today - June 03, 2013

Fauzia Kasuri Quits PTI

Speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club, she alleged that mafias and lobbies had taken over the party. "This is not the party that used to talk of giving people their rights," she said. Ms Kasuri criticized the top management of the party for being corrupt, biased and filled with nepotism, but she was all praise for the party leader, Imran Khan. "Imran Khan gave us hope and courage to work for change. He is a great leader and he has always spoken of righteousness, change for good and eradicating poverty," she said. But now Mr Khan was surrounded by crooked politicians, she added. "Tehreek-i-Insaf has not given me insaf (justice). I am not leaving the party, but the PTI has left me." Ms Kasuri had renounced her US citizenship in the hope of becoming a parliamentarian, but she did not get elected on a seat reserved for women. She said: "I submitted my passport to the US consulate, Lahore, on March 22, but the party did not place my name higher on the list of candidates who were to become MNAs on seats reserved for women. I was also not allowed to contest intra-party elections."

Ms Kasuri alleged that the commissioner allowed Rana Maqbool of Rahimyar Khan and Atif Chaudhry, Ajmal Sabir Raja and Haroon Hashmi of Rawalpindi, who held dual nationality, to contest the general elections and they were disqualified causing damage to the party. She criticised the hierarchy of the party for not conducting audit of donations. "Whenever I talked about the issue, Saifullah Khan Niazi, who was in charge of the accounts, got upset and annoyed," she added. "I have been collecting donations for the Shaukat Khanum Hospital for 22 years and I was with the party for almost 18 years. There was no woman in the party at the time." She said Munaza Hassan had joined the PTI just five years ago and left the country to live in Canada. Now she had been chosen to be an MNA on a reserved seat. "You all know about the conduct of Dr Shireen Mehrunnisa Mazari. She has been moving in and out of the party." She said Imran Khan talked to her by phone on Wednesday and asked her not to leave the party. "He told me that the party has an important assignment for me in the KP (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), but I told him that there is not much for me in the party now," she said. Meanwhile, a spokesman for the PTI said it was incorrect that Ms Kasuri's name was not on the list of party's candidates for reserved seats. Her name was fourth on the priority list, he said. He said the intra-party elections were held on March 21 and Ms Kasuri relinquished her US citizenship the next day.

Dawn - June 06, 2013

Jamiat Ulema - e - Islam Fazalur Rehman (JUI - F)**Talks with Taliban: JUI-F Asks Government to Create Conducive Environment**

The Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) which has already decided not to play any mediatory role in peace talks with Taliban warned the PML-N government on Thursday of a “complex situation” after withdrawal by the militant organisation of its offer for talks. It urged the government to create “conducive environment for reconciliation”. Mr. Achakzai said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman believed that reconciliation with the Taliban would not be possible if coercive measures continued to be taken. “We have to take them on board, otherwise we will not be able to maintain sovereignty in Fata whether because of Taliban challenging the writ of the state or drones violating our sovereignty,” said the Maulana. According to the JUI-F chief, nearly 50,000 people had so far lost their lives because of terrorism, but if “we do not find a solution, there will be more losses incurred”. Maulana Fazl said it was understandable that the establishment was not ready to talk to Taliban as “our officers and soldiers are dying”. But, he claimed, military operations had not contained militancy over the past decade and it was time “to face it straight”. He claimed to have the information that the army had no interest whatsoever in peace talks and reconciliation and, therefore, there was no environment for any talks. Soon after May 11 elections, the JUI-F and the PML-N had started discussing a power-sharing formula and the two parties had also constituted committees to finalize it. Earlier, the JUI-F had claimed that both parties had agreed that talks with Taliban would be held through a “grand peace jirga” as agreed by the mainstream political parties in a “declaration” at all-party conference organised by the JUI-F in Islamabad on Feb 28.

Dawn - June 07, 2013

Fazl Meets Nawaz; JUI-F to Sit On Treasury Benches in NA, Senate

Without a formal agreement with the ruling PML-N, the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) announced unilaterally that its members would sit on treasury benches in the National Assembly and Senate. The announcement followed a meeting between JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Though the official handout issued by the Prime Minister’s House after the meeting was silent on the JUI-F’s support for the government, a spokesman for the party said it had decided to sit on treasury benches since the prime minister had “agreed in principle on JUI-F’s priorities”. The spokesman, Jan Achakzai, said in a statement that the Maulana had presented in writing “all priorities” of the JUI-F to the prime minister at their meeting. He said the two parties would “mutually decide about other responsibilities, including cabinet berths and committees’ posts through consultation”. Soon after the May 11 elections, the JUI-F and the PML-N started discussing a power sharing formula and the two parties had constituted committees to finalize it. Despite having the simple majority required to form government on its own, the PML-N had taken an initiative by inviting the JUI-F to become a coalition partner with the sole purpose of getting the latter’s support in the Senate to carry out legislative business smoothly.

Media reports claimed that the JUI-F had sought chairmanship of the parliamentary committee on Kashmir, besides ministries of housing and religious affairs. The JUI-F, on the other hand, has denied all such reports and claimed that the party had told the PML-N that it wants to know a clear stand of the government on key issues like militancy in Fata and legislative business on various controversial issues before agreeing to join the government. The two parties had had a number of meetings at the committee level last month, but there had been no progress in the

talks. Later, the JUI-F had announced its support to PML-N candidates for the offices of the National Assembly speaker and deputy speaker as a goodwill gesture. After meeting a delegation of the PML-N, the JUI-F announced its support also for Nawaz Sharif in the elections for the prime minister. JUI-F information secretary Maulana Mohammad Amjad Khan said that the party might become part of the PML-N government if its charter of demands was met in true letter and spirit. He said the JUI-F's agenda included introduction of an Islamic system based on Islamic laws in the light of Quran and Sunnah. Another important point of the JUI-F priority was to get the existing interior and foreign policies revised, he said though the JUI-F had not pressed the government to give a timeframe for implementing its agenda of priority, it would keep observing the government's action in this regard.

Daily Times - June 09, 2013

Muthida Qaumi Movement (MQM)

MQM Warns Of a 1971-Like Scenario

At his first press conference since taking over as one of Rabita Committee's deputy conveners, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said as sons of the soil they do not want separation from the country. However, in the wake of party workers being targeted, a 1971-like situation could be created. The deputy convener's comments came when the party had declared a day of mourning across Sindh, in protest of the kidnapping and murder of three of their workers in Malir a day earlier. MQM had asked transporters to observe a complete wheel jam strike and traders to shut their businesses. Siddiqui said that the country was running on Karachi's revenues, and if it was left at the mercy of criminals, it would lead to a disaster for the whole country. He requested the prime minister and the chief justice to take notice of MQM workers being kidnapped and asked them to save lives of eight of their men who have gone missing.

Siddiqui said Pakistan had embarked on a new democratic path, but it was unfortunate that the provincial government was patronising criminals of Lyari. Condemning the Sindh chief minister, the MQM leader said after taking his oath, he chose to visit the Peoples Amn Committee instead of paying a tribute to the Quaid. "The Sindh government is supporting extortion and murder conducted by Lyari gangsters," Siddiqui said. He condemned law enforcement agencies and said when terrorists roamed freely in the city, they were targeting the MQM. At the press conference, workers of the MQM wore black armbands to express solidarity with the slain workers. Siddiqui lashed out at other political parties that did not offer a word of condolence. "Political parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami, were holding protests for re-elections but have not come out to the streets against kidnapping and extortion." Earlier, the Rabita Committee also announced the recruitment of two new members, Amin Ul Haque and Ahmed Saleem Siddiqui – taking the total number of its members to 25.

The Express Tribune - June 07, 2013

MQM to Support Government If It Eliminates Corruption: Altaf

Muttahida Qaumi Movement chief Altaf Hussain said that his party would render unconditional support to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government if it eliminated corruption in the country. The MQM supremo made these remarks while addressing the newly-constituted coordination committees of Pakistan and London, Karachi Tanzeemi Committee and workers of the party's different departments at the MQM headquarters at Nine-Zero. Altaf also urged the law enforcement agencies to rein in gangsters in Karachi, warning that "his slight signal would

move the flood of people towards the hideouts of criminals”. “We know where the criminals are hiding and we also know how to pull them out of their hideouts,” Altaf proclaimed. He said the victory of MQM candidate from PS-128 was the fruit of workers’ round-the-clock hard work.

Daily Times - June 10, 2013

MQM Will Join Government Soon

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader and Speaker of Sindh Assembly, Agha Siraj Durrani has claimed that Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) will join the provincial government soon. According to the PPP sources Malik has left to meet with MQM Chief Altaf Hussain. A final meeting to set terms and conditions for MQM's joining in the government is scheduled, President Asif Ali Zardari and MQM chief are likely to discuss the matter via telephone before any formal announcement. As per sources, PPP has offered MQM seven ministries in the province and the party's support in election of Deputy Chairman, Senate. The PPP enjoys majority in the upper house of the Parliament; therefore, MQM can avail the offered opportunity.

Sources said that after approval by the MQM chief the party will formally announce coalition government in Sindh. Besides both parties will form a joint Opposition in the National Assembly and play the role of Opposition in the lower house of the Parliament. Sindh Governor and PPP leader, Rehman Malik played an important role in persuading MQM leadership for joining the coalition. The PPP leaders including Sindh CM Shah had been publicly expressing their desire to bring back the MQM into the coalition prior to the formation of the PPP government in Sindh. MQM, however, remained reluctant to join the government for its own reasons. Also, the MQM's support in election of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in NA had given an impression that the party wanted to form an alliance with the PML-N instead of the PPP this time. Currently the MQM is the major party on Opposition benches in Sindh Assembly. Acting Speaker of the provincial assembly, Shehla Raza had also appointed MQM's nominee, Faisal Sabzwari as Opposition Leader during the last session of the provincial legislative house.

Daily Times - June 15, 2013

MQM Sees Public Referendum as Role Model

Deputy Convener of Central Coordination Committee MQM Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqi has said public referendum conducted by MQM was the beginning of new chapter of democracy in Pakistan. “MQM has laid the foundation of strong Pakistan and stable democracy by including opinion of masses in important decision making process”. He said all the political parties of the country should follow the role model of MQM. He expressed these views in a press briefing at Nine Zero on the occasion of “Public Referendum 2013” conducted to seek public opinion whether MQM should join the Sindh government. Dr Maqbool said only a few days back soon after getting the invitation from Sindh government to join them we had committed before media in this regard to seek public and workers opinion whether to join the government or not and take our decision in the light of the majority votes.

Media is the witness that people enthusiastically participated in today's Referendum. MQM has introduced a strong and stable democratic system and its practical proof was amazing and pleasant participation of public in this referendum throughout the province. He said that former member of National Assembly Dr Abdul Qadir Khanzada was appointed as the chief of election commission of this public referendum. He said MQM had set a unique example of real, durable

and participatory democracy, which is a role model for other political parties of the country to include public participation on the verge of difficult decision making.

Daily Times - June 21, 2013

All Pakistan Muslim League - APML

Musharraf Denied Bail in Bugti Case

An anti-terrorism court rejected an application for pre-arrest bail filed by retired Gen Pervez Musharraf in the Nawab Akbar Bugti murder case. Quetta ATC 1 judge Mohammad Ismail had reserved the judgment and issued 'non-bailable' arrest warrants of Gen Musharraf, former prime minister Shaukat Aziz, former governor of Balochistan Owais Ghani and former deputy commissioner of Dera Bugti Abdul Samad Lasi. Nawabzada Jamil Akbar Bugti has nominated seven persons, including Gen Musharraf, in the FIR registered at Dera Bugti police station

Dawn - June 12, 2013

Musharraf Indicted In Judges' Detention Case

The anti-terrorism court indicted General (r) Pervez Musharraf in the judges' detention case. He was indicted during a hearing of the case at his farmhouse in Chak Shahzad by ATC judge Kausar Abbas Zaidi. The case is based on an FIR against Musharraf, registered on August 11, 2009 on the complaint of advocate Chaudhry Mohammad Aslam Ghumman. He had asked the police to initiate legal proceedings against Musharraf for detaining over 60 judges, including Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, after proclamation of a state of emergency in the country on November 3, 2007. He is also accused of involvement in a conspiracy to murder Benazir Bhutto in 2007 and over the 2006 killing of Baloch nationalist leader Akbar Khan Bugti. Musharraf returned to Pakistan in March after nearly four years of self-imposed exile to contest May 11 general election.

Daily Times - June 16, 2013

Women Candidates on General & Reserve Seats

PML-Q, PPP to Undergo Draw for NA Reserved Seat

An interesting contest is expected between Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) at Provincial Election Commission office on a reserved seat for women as both the parties share equal percentage required to get reserved seat. Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab Mehboob Anwar, being Returning Officer for seats reserved for women in the National Assembly from Punjab, has issued notices to the presidents PPP and PML-Q as well as to Beelum Husnain, a contesting candidate from PPP and Tanzila Amar Cheema a contesting candidates from PML-Q. The notices were served to party heads to attend in person or through their authorised representative the proceedings of draw between the said candidates of both parties on account of having obtained equal points (highest fraction) in respect of one seat in the National Assembly from Punjab.

As a result of calculation for determination of quota of reserved seats for women on the basis of general seats won by each political party in National Assembly, is required to be allocated to one of them through draw between the two aforementioned political parties. The heads of both the

political parties or their authorised representatives and the nominees in the respective priority lists of the political parties or their authorised representative shall be present during the event. The proceedings for drawing a lot shall be held in the office of Provincial Election Commissioner, Punjab and member Election Commission of Pakistan Justice (retd) Riaz Kayani will draw the lot between the parties. Mehboob Anwar shall draw a lot in the presence of member ECP Riaz Kyani on one Reserved Seat for women in National Assembly (Punjab Quota) between PML-Q and PPP.

Daily Times - June 01, 2013

News, Updates & Reports

MNAs Elected From Multiple Constituencies Vacate Seats

Several newly elected member of the National Assembly who won more than one seat in the general election have withdrawn from additional seats. According to information available so far, PTI chief Imran Khan has vacated the NA-71 Mianwali and the NA-1 Peshawar, and has decided to keep the NA-56 Rawalpindi seat. Similarly, Javed Hashmi took oath for NA-149 and vacated his seat NA-48 Islamabad. PML N chief and PM-designate Nawaz Sharif took oath for NA-120 Lahore, thus vacating seat of NA-68 Sargodha. Another PML N leader Khuwaja Asif decided to keep the NA-110 and withdrew from PP-123. Sadruddin Rashidi, a Pakistan Muslim League-Functional (PML-F) leader, withdrew from NA-235 and decided to keep NA-215. Over in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief Minister Pervaiz Khattak vacated NA-5 Nowshera after taking oath as the chief minister of the province. Similarly, PTI provincial president and KP Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser decided to vacate NA-13 Swabi. Meanwhile, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has not yet decided which National Assembly seat to vacate, as he had won election from three National Assembly constituencies – Tank, DI Khan and Lakki Marwat. Fazlur Rehman did not take oath. Meanwhile, former KP chief minister Ameer Haider Khan Hoti surrendered the PK-23 Mardan seat.

Daily Times - June 02, 2013

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Human Rights Related Issues

‘Employers Should Support Us for Better Welfare of Labour Community’

Director General (Operations) Employees Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) Syed Iqbal Haider Zaidi said the employers should come forward to support us for the better welfare of labour community regarding their legal and moral obligations. During the visit of SITE Association of Trade and Industry on Monday he informed the office bearers of the Association EOBI was playing vital role to provide pension-related benefits to people of worker class and their survivors in the shape of old age pension, survivors’ pension, invalidity pension and old age grants. Zaidi said there were 5.5 million industries and private sector workers who are registered under Employees Old Age Benefits Scheme and they were getting various types of pensions after their retirements. EOBI has made arrangements to provide the pensions to registered workers through branches of National Bank of Pakistan, mobile banking and Easypaisa, he said. He appealed the employers and business community to cooperate with EOBI to fulfill this noble cause and with this, support the productivity of workers would also be improved. Chairman SITE Association Arshad Vohra and other office bearers discussed the issues related to registration of workers, facilitation system, contributions and pensions.

Daily Times - June 04, 2013

Labourers Rally for Payment of Salary

Employees of DMCs Saddar and Jamshed Zones took to streets against non-payment of their April and May salaries and staged a sit-in on Shahrah-e-Faisal. The DMC employees rallied from Nursery Bridge to Mualana Roomi Bridge. They chanted slogans against the local government authorities for not paying their outstanding salaries and pensions. The protesting laborers marched through Shahrah-e-Faisal, causing traffic jam. Municipal Workers’ Trade unions Alliance leaders Kaneez Fatima and Syed Zulfikar Shah while speaking on the occasion recorded their protest against the government. They demanded immediate payment of salaries to the workers of Saddar and Jamshed zones.

Daily Times - June 09, 2013

UN Chief Calls for Mass Awareness About Illicit Drugs

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has stressed on the governments, media and civil society to do everything possible to raise awareness of the harm caused by illicit drugs and to help prevent people profiting from their use. In his message on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, he said, “All over the world, the drugs threaten the health and welfare of youth and children, families and communities and billions of dollars generated by the drugs trade feed corruption, enhance the power of criminal networks and create fear and instability.” “Illegal drug trafficking is a clear obstacle to development. This cross-border problem requires a robust and coordinated law enforcement response within and among countries,” he added. He said, “Tackling the organised crime and the illicit drugs trade is a shared responsibility, but the rule of law is only part of the equation. For instance, the farmers

dependent on the cultivation of illicit drugs such as coca, marijuana and opium must be offered alternative livelihoods, while drug-users and addicts need help not to be stigmatised.” The UN secretary general said, “A human rights and science-based public health approach is the only sound basis for preventing and treating addiction and related consequences such as HIV transmission through unsafe injecting practices.” “We must also address threats such as the emerging problem of new psychoactive substances, many of which are not under international control. Young people, in particular, must be made aware of the dangers of these drugs,” he said. He said, “This year, I visited San Patrignano drug rehabilitation centre in northern Italy where more than 1,200 young women and men from 28 countries are learning how to free themselves from the curse of addiction and enjoy dignified, productive lives. It demands courage, commitment and the compassion of dedicated mentors.

Daily Times - June 26, 2013

Child Rights

'Around 30 Per Cent of Children Forced Into Labour in Southern Punjab'

Around 31,000 children between the ages of 5 and 14 work at 730 brick kiln industries as child laborers' in Sahiwal Division alone, according to the Insan Dost Association (IDA) in a recently study conducted in three districts - Pakpattan, Sahiwal and Okara (the three districts make up Sahiwal Division). The IDA, a social welfare organisation, conducted the study to gauge the demographic of kiln laborers and the brick kiln industry in the region. Significantly, hardly any brick kiln industry is registered with either the local labour or social security department. IDA Executive Director Anjum Matu told that around 11,000 children are working in Sahiwal district, 13,000 in Okara district and 7,000 in Pakpattan district. The survey also revealed that most of these children are working at kilns along with their families. Essentially, these families are bonded laborers'. Matu explained that poverty forces kiln laborers' parents to include their children in the work. He added that 30 per cent of our country's total population lives below the poverty line with people depriving of basic necessities like clothing, shelter, food, education and medication. It is the children of these people who are forced to become workers in order to survive. The IDA executive director further said that an education system divided along class lines was another reason for the high levels of child labour in the region. Around 30 per cent of children were forced into labour in Southern Punjab, which is the highest ratio of child workers in Pakistan. One problem identified by the IDA in rectifying this state of affairs is the non-implementation of laws meant to root out child labor in Pakistan. Matu emphasized that it was a high time to curb child labour as it was not only a constitutional obligation of the government but also an international commitment under various UN conventions. He added that although Pakistan passed the Bonded Labour Abolition act in 1993, it has still not been implemented at brick kiln industries.

Dawn - June 04, 2013

0.5m Children Work as Domestic Servants

About 10.5 million children across the world currently work in homes, cleaning, cooking, fetching water, taking care of children and looking after elderly members of the household, a report by the International Labor Organization (ILO). The children are often subjected to physical, psychological and sexual violence, the report said. In addition, the children are usually separated from their parents and families and become dependent on their employers. According

to director of the ILO's global programme to remove child labor Constance Thomas, most of these young servants are girls. Also, 6.5m of the domestic workers are 5 to 14 years old. Many of them risk being forced into prostitution. The situation of many child domestic workers not only constitutes a serious violation of child rights, but remains an obstacle to the achievement of many national and international development objectives," she said. She also expressed a need for legislation to help prevent child labor.

Dawn - June 13, 2013

ILO Launches Research Programme on Child Labour

The programme was jointly initiated with European Union under ILO project 'Combating Abusive Child Labour II (CALC II)' in which the university students have been involved to conduct case studies on various aspects of child labour, said ILO, EC-CALT Project II Programme Officer Zaheer Arif. The studies were conducted on worst form of child labour providing opportunities to the media students of selected universities to do research studies and produce video documentary, short films, etc, to dig out its root causes and change the behavior in society. Arif said their focus was to highlight various aspects of child labour, including its causes, consequences, and impacts on development issues such as poverty, education, law enforcement, socio-economic development, cultural barriers and social norms. He said the programme was initiated in December 2002 to raise interest and attract the future generation of media personnel at universities to be part of the movement against child labour. He urged the students to mould themselves as activists and take proactive actions to bring change in the society.

Daily Times - June 29, 2013

GENDER WATCH**Violence against Women****LHC Seeks Action over Alleged Rape and Murder**

Applicant Sobia Amaan submitted that her father Safdar Hussain raped her friend Sofia Safdar. The rape victim revealed the ordeal to her mother, brother and grandmother many times but no one believed her. She had to leave her house and live in Gulshan Ravi Lahore. During this period, many of her relatives contacted her and assured her that this would never happen again. On May 30, Sofia returned home on her family's assurances but on June 2, she was allegedly poisoned to death by her family. Consumer court fines mobile company over 'deception': A consumer court has directed a mobile phone company to pay back a customer the original product amount along with a fine for selling a product through deception. Complainant Dr Ahmad Saleem had approached the consumer court claiming that he purchased a mobile phone for Rs. 4,300. The company had claimed in the advert that the phone comes with a 1.3MP resolution camera whereas the product turned out to be of an inferior quality.

Judge Khawaja Hassan Wali directed the company to return Rs. 4,300 to Dr Saleem along with a fine of Rs. 10,000. In reply to the complaint, the company took the plea that in its model E-500 there was a built-in digital camera with a 1.3 MP resolution and same specification was also written on the box. The company also requested for recording evidence of both the parties before deciding on the complaint. The judge turned down this request saying, "Where there is sufficient material available on the file to decide the matter it becomes under the law obligatory for the court to decide the case without resorting to record further evidence of the parties, so as to save precious time of the parties as well as that of the court."

Daily Times - June 09, 2013

One-Third of Women Suffer Domestic Violence: A Report by WHO

In a series of papers released by the World Health Organisation and others, experts estimated nearly 40 per cent of women killed worldwide were slain by an intimate partner and that being assaulted by a partner was the most common kind of violence experienced by women. WHO defined physical violence as being slapped, pushed, punched, and choked or being attacked with a weapon. Sexual violence was defined as being physically forced to have sex, having sex because you were afraid of what your partner might do and being compelled to do something sexual that was humiliating or degrading. The report also examined rates of sexual violence against women by someone other than a partner and found about seven per cent of women worldwide had previously been a victim. In conjunction with the report, WHO issued guidelines for authorities to spot problems earlier and said all health workers should be trained to recognise when women may be at risk and how to respond appropriately. Globally, the WHO review found 30 per cent of women are affected by domestic or sexual violence by a partner. The report was based largely on studies from 1983 to 2010. According to the United Nations, more than 600 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not considered a

crime. The rate of domestic violence against women was highest in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, where 37 per cent of women experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner at some point in their lifetime.

The rate was 30 per cent in Latin and South America and 23 per cent in North America. In Europe and Asia, it was 25 per cent. Some experts said screening for domestic violence should be added to all levels of health care, such as obstetric clinics. “It’s unlikely that someone would walk into an ER and disclose they’ve been assaulted,” said Sheila Sprague of McMaster University in Canada. “Over time, if women are coming into a fracture clinic or a pre-natal clinic, they may tell you they are suffering abuse if you ask,” she said. For domestic violence figures, scientists analyzed information from 86 countries focusing on women over the age of 15. They also assessed studies from 56 countries on sexual violence by someone other than a partner, though they had no data from the Middle East. WHO experts then used modeling techniques to fill in the gaps and to come up with global estimates for the percentage of women who are victims of violence. Researchers found more than 38 per cent of slain women are killed by a former or current partner, six times higher than the rate of men killed by their partners. Heidi Stoeckl, one of the authors at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said the figures were likely to be an underestimate. She and colleagues found that globally, a woman’s highest risk of murder was from a current or ex-partner. Stoeckl said criminal justice authorities should intervene at an earlier stage. “When a woman is killed by a partner, she has often already had contact with the police,” she said. Stoeckl said more protective measures should be in place for women from their partners, particularly when he or she has a history of violence and owns a gun.

Daily Times - June 21, 2013

Women Empowerment

Women Empowerment Urged To Enhance Economic Activity

Global Compact Pakistan and Employers Federation of Pakistan launched Seven Principles of Women Empowerment under the theme ‘Equality Means Business’, at a ceremony. The seven principles urged business, academia and civil society to empower women so that they can fully participate in all sectors and levels of economic activity. This will turn out to be an essential initiative for establishing a stable and just society in the country, it said. Vice Chairman House of Habib, Sohail Ahmed, in his keynote speech emphasised that instead of putting women in womanly jobs, business should be friendlier for creating an environment in which women can freely think, operate and contribute to achieve business growth and sustainability. Advisor at Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Dr Shahida Saleem said that empowerment is the sum of means plus skills, plus accountability, and business to empower women must provide all the three to benefit from their potential to contribute to its growth. She assured full support of FPCCI in helping private sector play its pivotal role in embracing the principles of women empowerment.

Dr Shahida Sajjad, representing the Employers Federation of Pakistan, quoted global instances of how business benefited themselves by empowering women. Companies have been able to achieve more than 30 percent profit due to women who genetically work with partnership, she said. President All Pakistan Trade Union Congress Shaukat Ali urged for more induction of women in executive bodies of trade unions. He also called for more women representation at the enterprise level institutions, which will create more viable opportunities for women empowerment. He called upon private and public sector business, government, workers and employer bodies, academia, media, judiciary, professional organisations and civil society to join

hands in promoting these principles to strengthen our initiative to build a just, stable and socially responsive society. Other notables also addressed the launching ceremony, which was largely attended by representatives of business, workers, academia and civil society.

Daily Times - June 17, 2013

SECTARIAN CRISES & CONFLICT WATCH

Conflict & Sectarian Crisis Incidents

Security Briefs for the Month of June

DATE	INCIDENTS
June 3, 2013	National Assembly and Nawaz Sharif sworn in; PTI MPA Fareed Khan killed by militants; Sardar Ayaz Sadiq elected speaker of the National Assembly; Wali-ur-Rehman killed on tip-off by Hakimullah supporter; High school principal killed by Taliban; Pakistan augments nuclear stockpile; IMF expected to bail out Pakistan; Asif Zardari will not run for president again; Fighting kills 35 militants in Kurram; Nawaz disappointed by U.S. Drone attack; PTI urges Britain to take action against MQM; IED kills two in Balochistan; India asks U.S. to extradite Mumbai plotters; Chief of BNP-M to announce party strategy; MQM supports Nawaz's leadership; Musharraf may leave Pakistan; CM of Balochistan pledges to succeed or quit; IED kills one in Bannu; Militants arrested in Swat; Suicide attack wounds two in North Waziristan; Four kidnapped in Kurram; Bomb defused at an elementary school; TTP militant arrested at checkpoint; Deputy Attorney General proposes force against U.S. drones; NATO containers destroyed by gunmen; World Bank approves \$100 million loan to Punjab.
June 4, 2013	TTP commander arrested for MPA's murder; Pakistan Army commences 'war games'; Nawaz Sharif to tackle electricity crisis immediately; Indian foreign secretary apologizes to Pakistan; Nawaz Sharif submits prime ministerial nomination paperwork; Musharraf's bail petition falls through; Rangers officials shoot unarmed man; 7 killed throughout Karachi; Protests erupt due to energy crisis; BISP funding set to decline; ECP sets up tribunals; CM of Punjab meets with security officials; 2 killed after Fareed Khan protests; Leader of the upper house resigns; Balochistan speaker and deputy speaker to take oaths.
June 5, 2013	Nawaz Sharif returns as prime minister; 9 killed in Hangu over MPA death; University employee executed in Khairpur; Kidnapping leaves 3 dead, one severely wounded; MPA's home in Peshawar attacked; Pakistan's economy at low point; NATO shipping banned through Khyber today; Drone attacks supported by U.S. population; Government disburses Rs 6.5 billion to power sector; Suicide attack foiled; 6 wounded in grenade attack; India accuses Pakistan of encouraging Sikh militancy; Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa police arrest 828 criminals; MQM holds sway in opposition leader decision; Rangers officials order an inquiry; 29 criminals arrested in Quetta; FATA allots Rs18.5 billion for development; IMF delegation to meet in Pakistan on June 19; Punjab assembly votes leader on June 6; Musharraf willing to face charges.
June 6, 2013	Three TTP militants, two women killed in firefight; Nawaz Sharif prioritizes regional security; Military to brief new government; Foreign ministry spokesman rejects Sikh militancy claims; U.S. praises Pakistan's democratic

DATE	INCIDENTS
	turnover; Over 20 militants burn down houses; IED kills 2 police officers; Karzai congratulates Nawaz Sharif; 30 militants released from rehab; Mahmoud Ahmadinejad congratulates Nawaz Sharif; PTI President demands probe in MPA's death; JUI-F denies involvement in MPA's death; Peshawar officials investigate assault on MPA's home; Shabaz Sharif elected CM of Punjab; Man gunned down in Shangla; High school blown up in FR Peshawar; Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa anti-drone proposal submitted; MQM day of mourning commences; Man gunned down in Mardan; Justice announces Article 6 might apply in Musharraf's case; Gunmen shoot one in Mastung; 8 Rangers wounded in Karachi; Zardari refuses to give oath in Urdu; New Indian high commissioner to Pakistan appointed; Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves decline.
June 7, 2013	U.S. drone strike kills six, including "high value target;" Al Qaeda bomb maker added to Specially Designated Global Terrorist list; Pakistani troops kill Indian officer on Kashmir border; Nawaz Sharif's cabinet sworn in; Sharif removes top energy officials; PPP's Kursheed Shah appointed as NA opposition leader; Pakistan Army to withdraw from Swat; Bill Gates and Imran Khan to talk about polio crisis; Eight kidnapped by TTP will not be released; Drone victims' families urge new government to end strikes; Nawaz Sharif appoints head of IB; No major policy changes to occur vis-à-vis India; U.S. intelligence official calls Pakistan and India's new tactical missiles a "strategic miscalculation;" Two killed in Charsadda; NATO supply driver killed in Chaman; 10 year old released from militant rehabilitation; JUI-F protests religious leaders' arrest; Child added to revised death toll in TTP shootout; Musharraf's counsel requests information on treason allegations; Nawaz Sharif fails to offer new information on Iran pipeline and drones; Two sentenced to death in landmark Karachi case; JUI-F urges negotiations with Taliban while citizens' petition condemns peace talks; 94 Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa checkpoints abolished; Four wounded in Karachi shootings; Grenade thrown at factory; PML-N completes Punjab cabinet.
June 10, 2013	Nawaz Sharif offers to address militant sanctuaries if drone attacks stop, government protests latest drone strike; Militant groups set to clash in Mohmand; 6 killed as militants attack NATO convoy, Zardari condemns attack; PTI introduces anti-drone resolution in Punjab; Violence in Karachi leaves 11 dead; ISAF, Pakistani and Afghan commanders meet; JUI-F chief meets Sharif regarding TTP peace talks; Security forces conduct major offensive in Tirah Valley; Sharif eyeing renewed talks with TTP; Zardari congratulates Sharif; Sharif and Karzai to meet; Pakistan takes part in military exercises; State businesses lose \$4.1 billion a year; Iran-Pakistan pipeline will be completed; Arrest warrant issued for Musharraf; 2013-2014 fiscal budget to be released soon; NSA collected 13.5 billion reports from Pakistan in March; Security forces under attack in North Waziristan; PIA flight receives bomb threat; 1,500 kg worth of explosives seized by Peshawar police; 5 dead bodies recovered in Balochistan; PTI wants to tax NATO shipments; Security crackdown in Hangu leads to 3 arrests; 3 men gunned down in Lasbela Chowk, Karachi; Kurram clashes kill two militants; Two wounded in Bannu blasts; Dead body of missing

DATE	INCIDENTS
	person recovered in Quetta; Car showroom attacked in Quetta.
June 11, 2013	Indian fighter jets violate Pakistani air space; PML-N opposed to PTI anti-drone resolution; Afghan Taliban denies involvement in expected assault on TTP; Armed gunmen kill two BNP-M members; TTP claim responsibility for attack on NATO supply convoy; Gunmen kill two in attempted kidnapping; Pakistan fertilizer plants increase security; According to British report, Israel supplied Pakistan with arms; Fiscal report indicates most targets for 2012-13 missed; Nawaz Sharif forms Cabinet Energy Committee; Bill Gates to help with polio vaccinations; Violence continues in Karachi; Sindh Minister pledges to bring peace to Karachi; MQM releases shadow budget; Policeman shot and killed in Charsadda; Protests in Peshawar, Swat over power cuts; Balochistan Governor appointed; Frontier Corps arrests three in Quetta; Musharraf granted bail in detention case.
June 12, 2013	2013-2014 budget revealed; Pakistan will not release terrorism expenditures; India claims violation of Pakistani airspace was “technical violation;” TTP reaffirms allegiance to Afghan Taliban; Pakistani forces make gains in Kurram, Khyber; Musharraf to be arrested in Islamabad; Four U.S. officials denied entry into Karachi; IED wounds seven in Balochistan; Egypt reportedly replaces Waziristan as nexus for militant training; Energy riots continue; Two bodies found in Balochistan; Balochistan CM pledges to end “kill and dump” tactics; Nawaz Sharif appoints political secretary; MQM may join PPP-led Sindh government; Dozens of Pakistani citizens remain in Bagram jail; ECP orders re-polling in NA-103; Supreme Court reverses appointments, transfers; Bomb defused in Karachi; Two killed, two wounded in Karachi.
June 13, 2013	U.S. representatives express concerns over LeT in U.S.; Al Qaeda leader Zawahiri attempts to reassert control over regional affiliates; Pakistan unveils new, more austere budget, raises defense spending; Conflict information on whether Pakistan will continue Iran pipeline project; Gen. Dempsey says U.S. relations with Pakistan improving; Secretary of State to visit South Asia soon; Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa swears-in news ministers; Army chief calls on prime minister; MQM calls strike in Karachi; Imran Khan fit to be sworn in; Pervez Musharraf formally arrested in Bugti murder case; Lt. Col. killed in Khyber operation; Army declares part of Kurram clear of militants; Violence across Balochista, Karachi; Israel denies exporting military equipment to Pakistan.
June 14, 2013	TTP’s Faqir Muhammed still in Afghan custody; al Qaeda activist arrested for killing of prosecutor in Benazir Bhutto case; John Kerry to visit Islamabad; FC arrests militant with arms cache; Pakistan will build another nuclear facility; Six killed in Karachi; Pakistan displeased with U.S. over NSA reports; New government won’t release U.S. backed Dr. Afridi; Six wounded in Karachi, 47 arrested; Mining company to sue government; Sharif discusses energy policy; Cabinet of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa sworn in; Extremists limit Lahore publication; Police official shot and wounded in Swabi.
June 17, 2013	25 killed in Quetta terror attacks; BLA militants destroy the Quaid-e-Azam residency; Government officials condemn attacks; Secretary of State Kerry

DATE	INCIDENTS
	<p>telephones Nawaz Sharif; TTP extorts CEO of Islamabad business; Peshawar on high alert following the blasts; TTP refuses to take part in peace talks; IMF deal with Pakistan to occur; TTP executes informant; Budgets released by provincial governments; Imran Khan to be sworn in June 19; 8 killed in Karachi; India reportedly willing to sell electricity to Pakistan; State Department spokesman reports “bilateral ties are strong”; 6 policemen killed in Balochistan; Polio vaccinators gunned down; War games conclude in Pakistan; Policeman killed in Peshawar; World Bank posts projected 3.4 % growth for Pakistan; Army Chief Gen Kayani meets with Nawaz Sharif.</p>
June 18, 2013	<p>Blast kills MPA, 26 others in Mardan; Taliban to hold talks with the U.S., Afghanistan; John Kerry delays visit to Pakistan; Ambassador to U.N. protests U.S. drone strikes; Hafiz Saeed claims Quetta attacks not Jihad; NA debates response to U.S. drone strikes; Press release refutes Karzai’s claims; Three bodies found in Islamabad; Balochistan prisons on high alert; Student activist Malala Yousafzi signs U.N. petition; Divide evident between security and civil apparatuses in terror attacks, say lawmakers; Militants kill two in North Waziristan; Police raid London homes in connection with Imran Farooq’s murder; Five killed in Karachi; Afghan refugees may be deported; 43 arrested in Karachi; Militant killed in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa; Kidnappers arrested in Mohmand agency; Nawaz Sharif to visit Turkey; Criminals extorting under name of Taliban; Budget wrangling continues; 3 bodies recovered; Sindh will hire 20,000 more policemen.</p>
June 19, 2013	<p>Karzai threatens to end peace talks as they begin; Obama says friction in Afghan peace talks is normal; Ceasefire to be addressed in Afghan peace talks; Release of Taliban prisoners aids peace talks; Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes talks; Five more die in Mardan bombings, death toll at 34; Indian troops kill Pakistani girl at border; TTP clash leaves 7 dead; Pakistan to seek \$4.5 billion bailout from the IMF; Stocks rise on IMF visit; 6 people killed in Karachi; Body found in bags outside Islamabad; India allows cross examination of 2008 Mumbai witnesses; Iran will not penalize Pakistan on pipeline delays; Missing persons inquiry seeks to indict 117 security personnel; Frontier Corps must be subservient to government, says Senator; Nawaz Sharif meets with General Kayani; Lt. Col succumbs to IED wounds; Defense spending will not increase size of military, analysts claim; Balochistan cabinet sworn in; Zardari Swiss court case thrown out; PML-N member removed.</p>
June 20, 2013	<p>John Kerry calls on Karzai to keep peace talks moving; 6 soldiers killed in ambush near Peshawar, TTP claims responsibility; Pakistani military reportedly convinced Afghan Taliban to hold talks; Mullah Omar to name negotiating team in peace talks; PTI Deputy leader of KP calls for peace talks with TTP; Zardari congratulates Iranian president-elect Rohani; Two more die from Mardan attack wounds, toll at 36; Pakistan Army to remain in Waziristan; India hopes to join NSG; IMF talks begin in Pakistan; Doctor kidnapped in Punjab; Pakistani government censoring internet; 7 more killed in Karachi; ISI chief meets with Nawaz Sharif; Interior Minister announces new</p>

DATE	INCIDENTS
	security plan; Balochistan budget released; Woman injured in Gawadar grenade attack.
June 21, 2013	Qatar talks delayed; Success in Afghan talks may depend on prison exchange; Afghan and Pakistani UN ambassadors trade barbs over border security; 14 people killed in sectarian attack in Peshawar; MQM MPA shot and killed; Musharraf to face high treason charge; Security forces secure Tirah valley; Militants kill two pro-government militia members; Afghan diplomat wounded in firing incident; Pakistan distances itself from Qatar Taliban office; Altaf Hussain investigated in connection with Farooq murder; 2 policemen shot and killed in Karachi; Final touches on budget finalized; SC declares GST increase null and void; P&G to invest in Pakistan; 12 killed in Karachi on Friday; Two militants shot and killed in Peshawar; Gang war suspects arrested; Police find arms cache in Khuzdar; State Bank cuts interest rates; Five killed in Karachi on Thursday.
June 24, 2013	TTP attack kills ten tourists, including one American; Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif pledges to bring terrorists to justice; Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Gilgit-Baltistan suspended after attacks; Expeditions ended in Nanga Parbat for the summer; Doubt cast on Afghan Taliban talks; Strategic dialogue between U.S., Pakistan may resume; Nawaz Sharif supports high treason charges against Musharraf; TTP spokesman announces new group targeting tourists; Scotland Yard officials arrest one in MQM leader's killing; Shelling kills nine militants in Orakzai, Khyber; 6 militants killed in Dera Bugti; Vehicle bombed in Quetta; IED kills soldier in Bannu; Imran Khan urges national policy on terrorism; 5 people killed in Karachi; Two TTP militants arrested in Karachi; IMF mandates RGST; Violence along Kashmir border continues; North Waziristan shelling kills two girls; Death toll of Mardan bombing rises to 37; Deputy Superintendent of Traffic killed in Peshawar; Railway between Pakistan and China to be constructed.
June 25, 2013	FBI collaborating with Pakistan on Nanga Parbat attacks; Unknown men charged in the attacks; Thousands protest against attacks; Treason proceedings against Musharraf continue; Prime minister and army chief meet Ambassador James Dobbins; Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visits Kashmir; TTP spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan supports U.S.-Afghan Taliban peace talks; Six people killed in Karachi; Three killed in Shikarpur; Police seize truck of explosives in Risalpur; New suspects detained over former MQM leader's murder; Suspect confesses in murder of lawmaker; Villager killed by a bomb in Tirayee Payan; New energy policy proposed; Government to repay energy debts; Finance Bill for 2013-2014 under review in parliament; Pakistan holds talks with China in Beijing.
June 26, 2013	LeT, Ansarul Islam, attack TTP positions on Mohmand border; TTP kills nine in Karachi, wounds senior judge; U.S. special envoy James Dobbins meets with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over Qatar talks; TTP kill Station Chief of Hayatabad police; John Kerry "snubs" Islamabad; al Qaeda changing communication after NSA leaks; Altaf Hussain's cousin released on bail in murder case; FIA will investigate Musharraf; PPP-led government attempted

DATE	INCIDENTS
	to throw out Swiss Zardari case; Local peace committee member killed by TTP in Bannu; Pakistan discusses bailout as high as \$7 billion, but IMF doubtful over Pakistan revenue collection; Citizen missing in Gilgit-Baltistan; 17 percent GST will be collected retroactively from June 13; IED kills one, wounds three in Awaran; Man shot in Karachi; Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Assembly calls for end to load shedding; One shot and killed in Hangu; New chemicals used in IED attacks; Policemen to escort polio vaccinators in Swabi; Gilgit-Baltistan budget released.
June 27, 2013	16 terrorists identified in Nanga Parbat attacks; Kidnapped Czech women appear in terrorist video; JI warns government of U.S.-India relations; 5 killed in Karachi; Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to visit China; MQM will not join PPP-led Sindh government; Suicide bomber kills civilian in Quetta; Militants open fire on container trucks; FATA, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa poll turnouts affected by election violence, says study; Two peace militia members killed in Dera Bugti; National budget approved; JUI-F chief urges peace talks with Taliban; France pledges to aid in energy crisis; SC adjourns Musharraf hearing today.
June 28, 2013	Pakistan coaxing Afghan Taliban back into talks; Lawmaker fears drone strikes in Gilgit-Baltistan in future; Security concerns result in close of IDP camp offices; IED rocks NATO supply base in Khyber; Pakistan and Afghanistan to discuss refugees; Three rockets fired at factory in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa; 3 killed in Karachi; David Cameron to visit Pakistan; New energy policy, government repays more of IMF debt; India, Pakistan discuss relationship; New IMF tax rejected by Ishaq Dar; Ministry of Interior prohibits arms licenses; Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to focus on energy investment in China visit.

Compiled from different dailies

Reports & News

Quaid's Residency Blown Up

Militants carried out a symbolic and audacious attack on Pakistan, its history and the federal structure in the small hours when they blew up the Ziarat residency, the building in which the Quaid-i-Azam spent the last days of his life in 1948. The Balochistan Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the strike. A policeman was killed and a guard injured when they offered resistance to the attackers. "Over a century-old wooden...building [has been reduced] to ashes in which the Father of the Nation Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah spent last days of his life along with his sister Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah," official sources said. Sources said gunmen riding a pick-up and a motorcycle entered the residency premises around 1am and planted bombs at different points and detonated them by remote control. He said at first it appeared as if rockets had been fired from mountains. "However, after investigation it was confirmed that improvised explosive devices were used by the attackers," he said. The sources said when the lone watchman in the building confronted the gunmen, he was attacked and immobilised. The attackers then shot dead a police constable outside the residency when he rushed to the site

after hearing the blasts. The sources said that gunmen first removed the national flag and then hoisted the BLA's flag atop the residency's building, a fact confirmed by Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan in his speech in the National Assembly. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and several political leaders condemned the attack. In Islamabad, the Senate passed a unanimous resolution condemning the attack. Balochistan Governor Mohammad Khan Achakzai and Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch condemned the bombing and termed it a national loss. Balochistan IGP Mushtaq Sukhira said all efforts would be made to arrest the attackers. "We are investigating the incident," he told reporters in Ziarat. Chief Secretary Babar Yaqoob Fateh Mohammad and the IGP visited the destroyed monument. "Ziarat Residency will be restored to its old glory. Work will begin very soon," the chief secretary resolved. The two-storey residency was built in 1892 and formerly used by representatives of the British government in India.

Dawn - June 16, 2013

Government Failed To Present Proper Policy on Terrorism

Senators said the government had failed to present any proper policy on handling terrorism, which had badly affected Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Karachi. Both the treasury and opposition senators condemned the incidents in which students and a hospital were targeted. They said that the attack on Quaid-e-Azam Residency in Ziarat was a great national loss and no leniency should be shown to militants involved in such heinous activities. The resolution was moved by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmaker Senator Nuzhat Sadiq and was adopted by the House unanimously. "We condemn the terrorist attacks and express sympathy with the bereaved families, and pray for [eternal peace of] the departure sole," she said, adding that the entire nation, especially women, stood by the bereaved families. PPP Senator Raza Rabbani claimed that the acts were a conspiracy to fail the new democratic set-up, and demanded that the interior minister brief the House on the incidents. "FATA is the focal point during elections in the US and Pakistan, but when the time of allocation comes, it is usually neglected," he regretted. He demanded that the government should provide \$1 billion, which it had received from the US under the head of coalition support fund (CSF), and that the money should be spent on the development of FATA. Another FATA senator, Hidayatullah, said that militants had destroyed all educational institutions in the area, and the people were now compelled to live in camps. He said that the people of FATA had rendered supreme sacrifices and it would be totally unjustified to withdraw relief given to them. In the same breath, he lauded the government for making hefty allocations for development projects and said that it would help create economic stability in the country.

Daily Times - June 17, 2013

DEVELOPMENT WATCH**Health Projects****Fresh Anti-Polio Drive Soon To Begin**

The deputy commissioner of Hyderabad, Mohammad Nawaz Sohu, nominated 162 officials as focal persons for the three-day polio eradication campaign being launched on June 17 in the district. According to a notification issued by the deputy commissioner's office Mr Sohu directed focal persons to monitor the polio eradication campaign in their respective talukas. Out of the total 162 officials, 58 have been nominated for Hyderabad City taluka, 46 for Latifabad taluka, 19 Qasimabad taluka and 39 Hyderabad Rural taluka. Moreover, each union council of the district would be monitored extensively by these focal persons who would report to the district administration about coverage of polio vaccine and possible refusal cases. The list with the names and cell phone numbers of officials has been forwarded to all stakeholders and departments concerned to ensure close coordination. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Sukkur, Mubeen Ellahi, inaugurated sub-national polio immunisation campaign by administering anti-polio drops to children up to five years of age at the Jamiat Punjabi Sodagaran Hospital. The drive launched by the provincial health department would continue across the province till June 19. The official advised people to cooperate with polio teams during the door-to-door campaign and have their children vaccinated against the crippling disease. District Health Officer Dr Jai Ram Das said that 565 polio teams would be formed to achieve target of vaccinating 230,165 children during the campaign. Required vaccines were readily available with the department, he added.

Dawn - June 15, 2013

USAID Starts \$387m Maternal and Child Health Programme

US Ambassador Richard Olson gave nod to the \$387 million Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Programme in Sindh. Olson and Sindh Secretary Health Inamullah Khan Dharejo signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for this five-year project. Under this initiative, US Agency for International Development (USAID) will support Pakistan's efforts to reach more mothers and children with integrated family planning, maternal, newborn, and child health services, and ultimately reduce maternal and child mortality rates. The programme will also provide technical assistance to the health and population sectors at the federal, provincial, and district levels to reform and improve service delivery, he stated. US Ambassador went on to say that MCH Programme will help forge partnerships between international and local health experts and Pakistan's vibrant private sector to bring cutting-edge health approaches and models to Sindh, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Through these efforts, more women will have access to emergency obstetric care, modern contraception, and quality essential newborn care, he said.

New mothers will also be provided with critical information regarding hygiene, nutrition, immunizations, and treatment of common illnesses for their children through the first five years of life. This new MCH Programme continues a five-decade-old tradition of US support to Pakistan in building and improving a quality healthcare system. During the 1950's the United States helped Pakistan establish Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC). In the 1960s the United States helped introduce oral rehydration kits to Pakistan, as well as decreased the

number of malaria cases from seven million to less than 10,000. More recently, in the past three years, United States has helped Pakistan build two hospitals (one at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre-JPMC in Karachi and another in Bagh, Kashmir). Construction of a third, a state-of-the-art medical centre in Jacobabad is underway. United States has also helped Pakistan reconstruct and equip 155 health units, triple the size and modernize the Central Warehouse for Health Commodities in Karachi, and helped thousands of medical professionals upgrade their skills.

Daily Times - June 29, 2013

Health Reports/ Controls

Polio Cell Abolition: UN Bodies Express Concerns

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s fund (UNICEF) have conveyed their apprehensions to the caretaker government over the abolition of the prime minister’s polio monitoring cell. In a letter, they expressed the fear that the move would adversely affect the efforts to eliminate the crippling disease from Pakistan by 2014. Pakistan is one of the three countries in the world that have never stopped polio virus transmission and been a source for spread of the virus to countries in Asia and Africa. The caretaker government recently abolished the cell and shifted it to the ministry of national health services, regulations and coordination. The polio monitoring cell was established in 2011 by then PPP-led government for the coordination and monitoring of the immunisation programme under the direct supervision of the prime minister. In a letter to Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso, WHO representative in Pakistan Dr Nima Saeed Abid and UNICEF’s Dan Rohrmann said in 2012 the world health assembly had declared the completion of polio eradication as a programmatic emergency for global public health.

The international community is extending its full support to Pakistan and is closely monitoring the progress ahead of the end-2014 deadline to stop polio globally. This support spans technical assistance through WHO and UNICEF staff surges, guidance and monitoring through the technical advisory group and the independent monitoring board among others and financing through the Islamic Development Bank and other bilateral partners. These advisory and monitoring bodies and the financial support are fundamentally based on the international confidence engendered by NEAP and the oversight, coordination, management and accountability structures that guarantee its full implementation and are in integral component of the NEAP. The UN organizations’ representatives said the attack on polio workers in Peshawar this week emphasised the continued need for a high-level oversight and coordination as well as crisis management. According to the officials, the immunisation campaign run on one pattern in all parts of the country, including Fata and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, former adviser to the prime minister on polio eradication, said the polio monitoring cell should be kept under the supervision of the prime minister for better coordination and monitoring. She feared that polio eradication would once again revert to the old business as usual approach.

Daily Times - June 01, 2013

UN Concerned Over Falling Aid for Pakistan

The situation in Pakistan is also “very complex” because of a drop in funding in recent years, John Ging, Director of Operations of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs,

told journalists in New York on Wednesday. The humanitarian appeal in 2010 was 70 per cent filled, but only 44pc in 2011 and 29pc last year. “This is again evidence of failing of the international commitment to do what we are there to do,” Mr Ging said. “As a humanitarian organisation, it is frustrating to work with productive partnerships and not be able to deliver.”

Dawn - June 07, 2013

40% Disease Deaths Connected To Water

According to a report released by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) 2012, in Pakistan 92 percent people had gained access to source of drinking water by 2010 while this ratio was 85 percent and 89 percent in 1990 and 2000 respectively. The MDG target is to achieve the ratio of 93 percent by 2015. Moreover, 48 percent people have been using improved sanitation by 2010 while this ratio was 27 percent and 37 percent in 1990 and 2000 respectively. The MDG target for access to sanitation is 90 percent by 2015. According to a World Bank report, water supply in Pakistan fell from 5,000 cubic meters to 1,000 cubic meters in 2010, and is likely to further reduce to 800 cubic meters per capita by 2020 due to growing population pressure, rapid urbanisation and industrialisation. The report further states that about 2 million wet tonnes of human excreta are annually produced in the urban sector of which around 50 percent go on to pollute water bodies. The National Conservation Strategy states that almost 40 percent of all disease related deaths are connected to water borne diseases. Other sources of water pollution are industrial effluents, solid waste, hospital waste, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Currently the country suffers from multifarious pollutions, land degradation, commercialisation of nature, rapid urbanisation, rising population, massive use of agriculture pesticides fertilisers, substandard food sale and unhygienic situation at hospitals and streets of many cities, said the survey. The existing environment management capacity cannot sustain such a large population with a good quality of life. Despite the devolution of Federal Ministry of Environment and transfer of more powers to provinces the state of environment has been in shambles.

Daily Times - June 09, 2013

Measles Epidemic Undeterred By Lofty Official Claims

At least 73 new cases of measles have been admitted in various hospitals in the provincial metropolis, raising the number of patients to more than ten thousand so far. Sources said that 16 new measles cases were admitted in Children’s Hospital, around 21 new cases had been brought at Mayo Hospital, 10 new cases were reported in Services Hospital and two cases were admitted in Jinnah Hospital during the last 24 hours. Sources further said 24 other measles cases were admitted in different government and private hospitals across the city.

Daily Times - June 22, 2013

Health Workers Risk Their Lives for Vaccinating Children

A woman volunteer developed cardiac problems and remained in hospital for a month after a policeman escorting her during a vaccination campaign in Mardan was targeted by gunmen. They said the woman hadn’t received any assistance from the government and was left at the mercy of Allah. The officials said the government received huge financial assistance for polio eradication but the honorarium paid to workers was very little, especially in view of the threats

to their life. He said the woman remained in Mardan Medical Complex Mardan, where she was not given free treatment. The official said the government had ignored polio workers targeted by gunmen by and large. He said the government had provided Rs. 300,000 compensation each to the heirs of slain vaccinators but the families of the volunteers who died for the same cause couldn't get any amount. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has 34,000 vaccinators, who are required to administer OPV to 5.5 million children less than five years on their doorsteps. Every vaccinator is paid Rs500 per day and Rs. 2,000 for every campaign.

However, volunteers don't get compensation like the government employees. Ironically, communication officers hired for polio campaigns by UNICEF receive Rs. 60,000 plus other benefits every month. He said volunteers were distancing themselves from polio campaigns due to the delayed payment of dues and failure to arrest killers. The official said three policemen, who were among those killed during polio vaccination, would get Rs. 0.3 million each under 'Shuhada Package' besides pensions and other privileges. He said four health employees, who fell victim to militant attacks in polio campaign, had been given Rs. 300,000 compensation each, while their close relatives would get jobs. When contacted, deputy commissioner of Peshawar Javed Marwat said the administration had forwarded a summary to the government for payment of compensation to the relatives of volunteers, who died during polio vaccination campaigns. He said a compensation of Rs. 300,000 and Rs. 100,000 had been recommended for such volunteers. Meanwhile, the health department, which is spearheading polio campaigns, has long been requesting the government to announce package for volunteers as it wants to keep vaccination going. "We cannot afford to halt polio campaigns at this critical time because we have got very close to eradication of the crippling virus. Eradication is a difficult phase because we have vaccinated all children, who are impossible without the support of volunteers," an official said.

Dawn - June 24, 2013

Education Projects

New Government to Implement Unified Education System

Speaking at the Air University Project Exhibition 2013, the minister said the government would take strong measures to bring standard in education at all the levels. The raise in the budget of higher education sector from Rs 39 billion to Rs 58 billion was a record and evident of the government's commitment to the education. He said the government would also take steps to bring improvement in the field of technical and skill-based education besides others. Congratulating the students on exhibiting their innovative final year projects, the minister said the university education in science and engineering was a long and arduous process and it requires hard work and determination to become a qualified professional. Balighur Rehman said these students have heavy responsibility on their shoulders and they must perform their duties with utmost honesty and diligence. Through their innovations, they have to bridge the technology gap between Pakistan and the developed nations. Stressing the importance of practical learning, the minister of state said the students should get practical expertise in their respective fields as far as possible. An award ceremony was held where top three projects from each department, as judged by a committee of senior representative from industry and academia, were awarded prizes. The representative of over 300 organisations, both from public and private sector, attended the exhibition.

Daily Times - June 26, 2013

ENERGY CRISIS

Government's Role in Oil and Gas & Energy Crisis

National Energy Policy Finalised

The government has finalised a national energy policy to increase electricity generation to 26,800MW, reduce average electricity rates by more than 30 per cent, achieve zero loadshedding, encourage huge public and private investment and import electricity from India, Iran and Central Asian states in three years. The policy would be shared with provincial governments on June 29 at the forum of Council of Common Interests (CCI) for maximum ownership before it is announced by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a couple of weeks. Under the new energy policy, four separate sectoral policies would be put in place to cover four major areas of the power sector - supply chain of the power sector, generation system, and transmission and distribution system. The overarching target of the policy is to increase generation from the current 12,200MW to 26,800MW in the medium term (3-5 years) and reduce average generation cost from Rs14.67 per unit to about Rs10 per unit by bringing in efficiency, merit order and transparency in the entire spectrum of the power sector. Oil and gas exploration would be expedited through fresh incentives and conserve gas currently in use of non-productive or less economic uses and divert it to power generation for cost reduction.

To achieve this, performance assurance contracts would be signed with the Pakistan State Oil and other fuel suppliers and generation companies. The supply chain policy notes that heavy consumption of gas was taking place in some uneconomic sectors because of its low cost and seeks to rationalize gas tariff so that all sectors of economy enjoy similar rates for ultimately maximizing its supply to the power sector. Different gas rates for different power plants would also be done away with. It seeks aggressive investment in expansion of Shale and Tight gas production that has brought about a revolution in the US market. Low cost generation would be achieved through improved energy mix by focusing more on cheaper sources to achieve 26,800MW of generation in 3-5 years and ensure zero loadshedding from 12,200MW of generation and average 10 hours of load shedding. The private sector would be offered fresh incentives. The policy seeks for accelerating power imports from neighbouring nations like 1,000MW from Central Asian states, 500MW from India and 1,000MW from Iran and restructure and renovate or replace public sector generation plants through public-private investment.

Dawn - June 25, 2013

Alternative Energy Key to Overcoming Energy Crisis: PM

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan's huge alternative energy potential holds the key to overcoming the acute energy crisis facing the country. "All avenues need to be explored and every effort needs to be put in to tap in the alternative energy potential of the country," the prime minister emphasised while speaking at a presentation given to him on solar energy resources in Pakistan and investment opportunities for a consortium of foreign and local companies. Nawaz expressed these views while speaking at a presentation given to him on solar energy resources in Pakistan and investment opportunities by a consortium of foreign and local companies. The consortium showed confidence in the leadership of Nawaz Sharif and said that the pro-investor policies of the present government have attracted them towards investment

opportunities in Pakistan. While addressing the meeting, the prime minister said that his government would go an extra mile to facilitate those companies and firms which transfer technology through their investments in the alternative energy sector in Pakistan. The prime minister observed that Pakistan possesses huge potential of solar and wind energy and has a reservoir of coal and other fossil fuels to produce electricity which, if utilised optimally, would help improve people's standards of living. Nawaz also took notice of non-provision of gas to thermal powerhouses and ordered that they be supplied the fuel on immediate basis and sought a report from the concerned authorities. It is noteworthy that electricity generation was affected due to the non-provision of gas to thermal powerhouses.

Daily Times - June 27, 2013

PM Orders Gas Tariff Rationalization

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif directed rationalization of gas tariffs to safeguard the interests of the common man. While chairing a high level meeting on gas issues at the Prime Minister's Office, Nawaz was told that work on the Iran-Pak gas pipeline project and Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project is in progress. The prime minister was also informed that India is also interested in exporting LNG to Pakistan. Nawaz instructed that all available resources be exploited and all avenues explored to overcome the gas shortfall in the country. He said that different options to import gas from the neighbouring countries are examined to overcome the shortage. The meeting was informed that domestic consumption of gas constitutes 28% of the total national use of the resource. The prime minister gave clear directions to the Ministry of Petroleum that domestic consumers be given precedence over other sectors of the economy in the gas distribution formula. The meeting was informed that in order to bridge the gap between demand and supply across the country, load management of gas was done, particularly during the winter season when the demand for gas increased exponentially.

Daily Times - June 28, 2013

Power Crisis & Electricity Loadshedding Problems

Nawaz Urged To Start Work on Kalabagh Dam

Prime Minister in-waiting Nawaz Sharif has been urged to start work on Kalabagh Dam to get rid of the menace of load shedding that has pushed the industrial sector on the verge of collapse. Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF) Acting Chairman Khamis Saeed Butt has said that Nawaz and Shahbaz Sharif have to take revolutionary measures to put the economy back on rail. He said that it would be proved that the construction of Kalabagh Dam is of utmost importance to get rid of electricity shortage, closure of industry and unemployment. He said that Kalabagh Dam could generate cheap electricity but federal government shelved the project with one stroke of the pen and utilising all energies to generate costly electricity through furnace oil. Butt said that manufacturing growth is stagnant while burden of internal and external debts getting heavier with every passing day. He said that industry couldn't grow by using much costly electricity. Pakistani products are already losing their share in the international market and situation would nose dive if Kalabagh Dam was not constructed on war footing. Had a little attention been given towards the construction of Kalabagh Dam in past, so country would have ample electricity and prosperity in all corners. He appealed to the Nawaz to allocate sufficient funds for Kalabagh Dam in the federal budget 2013-14.

Daily Times - June 04, 2013

Power Crisis, Economy Top Priorities, Says Shahbaz

Chief Minister Punjab designate, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has said that sorting out the power crisis and salvaging the economy would be the top priorities of the PML-N government. He said God had given a great opportunity to the nation to reconstruct Pakistan under the leadership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. "Such opportunities rarely come in the history of nations. It is the responsibility of elected representatives, political parties and people of the country to benefit from this opportunity and steer the motherland out of existing quagmire of crises," he said. He was talking to various delegations at Punjab House in Islamabad. Shahbaz Sharif said the first address of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in the National Assembly after being elected the Prime Minister was of historical importance. He said that it was for the first time in the history of the nation that any Prime Minister elected with a thumping majority invited all political parties with such humility, broad mindedness and sincerity. Shahbaz Sharif said that the address of Nawaz Sharif was that of a national leader and a sagacious politician in the true sense of the word. He said that the message of taking everyone along by PML-N was not limited only to speeches but they had actually started work on that even before coming into power. He said that the formation of PTI government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and nomination of Dr. Abdul Maalik as Chief Minister Balochistan was reflective of the approach of PML-N. Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif said that they would follow the path of reconciliation in Punjab which had been identified by Quaid PML-N, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif as the Prime Minister in his first address to the National Assembly.

Daily Times - June 06, 2013

Babar Awan Responsible For Delay in Power Plant Machinery, SC Told

Law ministry has told the Supreme Court that former Law Minister Babar Awan and three former law secretaries were responsible for delaying the approval of Nandipur and Chicho Ki Malian power plants machinery shifting from Karachi port to the site during their tenure, which had cost the national exchequer Rs113 billion. In view of the law ministry's inquiry report, the Supreme Court has issued notices to three former law secretaries including incumbent Federal Shariat Court Chief Justice Agha Rafiq; Election Commission of Pakistan's member Justice (retired) Riaz Kayani, Masood Chishti and Babar Awan for submitting their reply regarding this matter. At the outset of proceedings, counsel for law ministry Munir Paracha submitted that an inquiry report had already been furnished in the apex court about this matter. Meanwhile, ministry for petroleum and finance secretaries submitted a report pertaining to the Nandipur and Chicho Ki Malian power plants and said that approval of the outstanding amount against the projects machinery would be granted during the next meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee. Chief Justice Chaudhry asked the petitioner to engage a lawyer to plead the present case. Khawaja Asif said that cost of the projects had increased to Rs57 billion from Rs23 billion. The court was informed that former law minister Babar Awan issued a circular on December 21, 2009, which had stated that no correspondence was allowed without his permission. Dr. Riaz Mehmood, senior joint secretary ministry of law submitted his reply in the case and alleged that former law minister Babar Awan and former law secretary Masood Chisti were responsible for unreasonable delay in installation of both the plants machinery in the site.

Daily Times - June 11, 2013

Government to Raise Power Tariff by Rs2.5 per Unit

The government has decided in principle to increase electricity tariff by an average Rs2.5 per unit from next month to offset power subsidies by about Rs100 billion. A finance ministry official told that authorities in the power sector had been asked to work out a tariff increase which would not affect domestic sector consumers using 100 units a month, put a low burden on those using up to 300 units and gradually increase rates for higher-slab residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural consumers. A Nepra official said the annual impact of about Rs6 per unit difference between applicable tariff and Nepra-determined tariff meant was Rs250 billion. He agreed that the Rs2.5 per unit average tariff increase would translate into Rs100bn. He said that Nepra had determined a tariff increase but had nothing to do with its recovery. The tariff for high-consumption consumers would be kept on the higher side, not only to discourage consumption as a demand side management but also to cross subsidise lower segments. The federal cabinet has already approved scaling down inter-Disco tariff differential to Rs150bn next year from its current year level of Rs250bn. Likewise; the subsidy for agricultural tube wells in Balochistan would also be reduced from Rs5bn to Rs3.1bn. On the same pattern, the tariff differential subsidy would also be reduced by about 34.5 per cent to Rs55bn next year from its current year revised estimate of Rs84.3bn. This would also be achieved by increasing consumer tariff in line with tariff increase for Wapda consumers. The overall tariff subsidies have been proposed to be brought down to Rs220bn next year from the revised estimate of Rs350bn for the current year. The government had originally budgeted power subsidies for Wapda consumers at Rs185bn, including Rs120bn as tariff differential, Rs10bn for Fata and Rs5bn for Balochistan agriculture.

Dawn - June 14, 2013

REGIONAL WATCH

Pakistan & United States

Nawaz Deeply Disappointed By Drone Attack: PML-N Wants US to Give Peace a Chance

Irritated by this week's drone attack which killed Taliban's front-rank leader Waliur Rehman, the PML-N said it would ask the United States to exercise "restraint and give peace a chance". The chief of the party and incoming Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expressed "serious concern and deep disappointment" over the drone strike. According to a PML-N leader, a close aide of Mr. Sharif has conveyed his point of view to US Chargé d'Affaires Richard Hoagland. The diplomat was told that the attack — days after President Obama's 'crossroads' speech — was highly regrettable, "particularly as the president had spoken of initiating a new policy which would ensure greater exercise of care and caution in the use of this technology". Mr. Sharif's aide also pointed out that meaningful consultations and close cooperation between the two countries should be the "desired course of action", rather than unilateral measures. PML-N Senator Pervaiz Rashid said the drone strike was not good for the incoming government's efforts for peace. "The US should have shown restraint knowing the government is going to hold peace talks with Taliban.

Mr. Rashid, who is reportedly being considered for the post of information minister, said: "We are not panicky about Taliban's announcement for withdrawal of the offer for peace talks. We are confident that our noble cause will not be affected by this incident." The Taliban withdrew their offer for peace talks and vowed to avenge the killing of Waliur Rehman. Punjab chief minister in-waiting Shahbaz Sharif said: "We will hold talks with the US on the issue of drone attacks because these are against the country's sovereignty and integrity." The PML-N circles are wondering why the US launched the drone attack when had Nawaz Sharif made it clear that he was serious about peace talks with the Taliban. They said the US had even hinted that it had no objection to the incoming government's initiative for dialogue. US Ambassador Richard Olson recently told reporters that it was a prerogative of the (PML-N) government to hold talks with Taliban. "The US government has no objection if Pakistan enters into talks with Taliban," he said. In a speech after winning the May 11 elections, Nawaz Sharif said about 40,000 precious lives have been lost and the national economy was suffering a loss of billions of dollars (in the war against terrorism).

Dawn - June 01, 2013

Pakistan & India

Pakistan Denies LOC Firing Allegation

The Pakistan army denied having targeted Indian positions across the Line of Control. The Indian army had initially accused the Pakistan army of firing automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades on Indian posts in the Poonch sector. A junior commissioned officer identified as Naib Subedar Bachan Singh of Garhwal Regiment was reportedly killed when a rocket hit the Lonwali post. However, later Indian military spokesman S.N. Acharya as having said that it was not yet clear whether the firing had been carried out by Pakistani troops or Kashmiri militants trying to cross the LoC. The latest LoC incident has been reported a day after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif outlined his foreign policy priorities, calling for normalization

process with India to be “progressively pursued”. A 2003 LoC ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and India has so far been respected by both sides despite sporadic violations. In January, such violations intensified leaving a number of soldiers on both sides dead. Those violations led to a diplomatic row between the two countries and the resumed peace process was put on an unannounced halt. A couple of LoC violations were also reported last month.

Dawn - June 08, 2013
