



PAKISTAN  
GOVERNANCE  
FORUM

*An Initiative of 'The Researchers'*

**January 2012**  
**Edition VI, Volume XI**

---

**CONTENTS**

<b>GENDER AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Women &amp; Politics</b>	<b>1</b>
Nasim Wali's Application for Senate Ticket a Test for ANP	1
Marvi May Launch Political Party	1
<b>Women's Empowerment &amp; Gender Equality</b>	<b>2</b>
Pink Bus Service: Three Women-Only Buses Launched	2
KP Assembly Passes Bill: Women in KP Can Now Inherit Property	2
SC Seeks Record of CNICs Issued To Eunuchs	2
68 Cases of Online Female Harassment Registered In 2011	3
Despite Issues, Transgender Celebrate Voting Rights	4
<b>HR WATCH</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Women &amp; HR</b>	<b>5</b>
Domestic Violence: Woman Set On Fire, Another Killed For 'Honor' By In-Laws	5
<b>Child Rights</b>	<b>5</b>
Over 76% Parents Favor Corporal Punishment	5
Fata Takes Lead in Protecting Child Rights	6
Child Marriages Violation of Human Rights, Say Legislators	7
'No Progress on Domestic or Child Labor'	8
<b>Conflict Watch</b>	<b>8</b>
SC Seeks ISI, MI Reports on Balochistan Killings	8
BSO-M Threatens To Block TV Channels in Balochistan	9
Terrorist Incidents in January	9
Target Killings of Shias	10
<b>Minority Rights</b>	<b>10</b>
Call for Protecting Fundamental Rights of Minorities	10
Caste Makes Them Outcast	11
Worship Site Row: Large Protest against Ahmedis in Rawalpindi	11
<b>HR Related Issues</b>	<b>12</b>
50% Drop In Drone Strikes as Pak-US Ties Plunge	12
Qadri Supporters Offer Rs. 100m for 'Holy Gun'	12
1,300 Conflict-Hit Children Provided Psychological Support	13
Human Rights: Government Wakes Up To the Rising Trend of Police Torture	13
Not Approved: Rights Bill Goes To Senate Panel for Fine-Tuning	14
<b>GOVERNANCE WATCH</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Political Governance</b>	<b>15</b>
SC Gives Government Six Options in NRO Case Take Your Pick Mr. Prime Minister	15
National Assembly: MQM Introduces Bill for Two New Provinces	16
PA Meets to Get Node on 'Returned Bills'	17
38th NA Session: 44% of Agenda Items Remain Unaddressed	18
NA Body Approves Draft of 20th Constitutional Amendment	19
Federal & Provincial Governments	19
• Reforming HEC and ECP	19

<b>Demand for New Province</b>	<b>20</b>
ANP Flays MQM for Demanding Hazara Province	20
Two-Thirds Agree On Seraiki Province: Gilani	20
All In For Creation of Hazara Province	21
Reps Want Malakand Division Divided For Better Admin	21
<b>ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Facts &amp; Figures</b>	<b>23</b>
SBP and Finance Ministry Give Conflicting Estimates of Fiscal Deficit	23
Remittances Rise 19.54pc to \$6.32bn in First Half	24
Government Eyes More Than \$12bn Remittances by FY End	24
Country to Pay Back \$1.2bn of IMF in March, June	25
<b>Government Policies</b>	<b>25</b>
The Challenge of Real Change	25
<b>ELECTION WATCH</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>ECP &amp; Election Related Updates</b>	<b>27</b>
ECP to Start SMS Vote Registration Checking Service	27
General Elections in October, Decides PPP	27
PPP, PML-N to Gain Most Seats in Senate Polls	29
Four Minority Senators to Join Senate after Polls	30
Senate Elections on March 2	31
Completion of Voters' Lists: SC Rejects ECP Request for Extension in Deadline	32
Overseas Pakistanis May Win Postal Voting Right	32
NADRA Likely To Miss ECP Deadline	33
Public Servants': The True Face of Parliamentarians' Take-Home Figures	33
Secret Election Schedule Talks between PPP, PML-N Stall	34
Electoral Matters	35
Sunni Tehrik Announces Conversion into Political Party	36
Only 48% of ECP's Strategic Plan Implemented	36
Option for Early Election Is Open, Says Gilani	37
PTI to Launch Membership Campaign	38
<b>REGIONAL POLITICS</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Pakistan's Foreign Relations</b>	<b>39</b>
Pakistan, Afghanistan Agree To Enhance Bilateral Trade to \$5 Billion By 2015	39

---

## GENDER AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

### Women & Politics

#### **Nasim Wali's Application for Senate Ticket a Test for ANP**

The aspiration of veteran politician Begum Nasim Wali Khan seeking ticket for a Senate seat will not only put to test the central Awami National Party (ANP) leadership but is also likely to dash the hopes of those lobbying for securing women's reserved seats in the Upper House of the Parliament on the nationalist party's tickets from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She said she was constantly filling the party membership forms and has remained a regular member of the ANP even when she was not holding any office in the party since 2005. The ruling ANP, which has majority in the 124-member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, has invited applications for the Senate election from its workers and formed a parliamentary board with Senator Afrasiab Khattak as its chairman. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly will elect 12 senators during the Senate election in March as the six-year term of 11 senators from the province is set to expire. "Ours is a democratic party and like Begum Nasim Wali Khan anyone can apply for party ticket to contest the Senate and general elections," said an ANP leader, who requested not to be named, when contacted to comment on Begum Nasim Wali's application for the party ticket. The ANP parliamentary board would decide the final nomination of candidates, adding the board had received several applications so far. Begum Nasim Wali said that she would not revolt or object if the party's parliamentary board declined her application for the Senate seat. She hastened to add that she was physically fit to represent her party and womenfolk in the Senate. Daughter of noted Khudai Khidmatgar Amir Mohammad Khan from Mardan, she married Khan Abdul Wali Khan in 1954. She entered active politics in 1977 when her husband and other nationalist leaders were imprisoned by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto-led PPP government. She was the first woman from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to be elected to the NA and provincial assembly in the general elections thrice. Unlike her late husband, her sons Asfandyar Wali Khan and late Sangeen Wali Khan, she never lost any election.

**The News - January 23, 2012**

---

#### **Marvi May Launch Political Party**

Former MNA Marvi Memon on Sunday hinted at launching a new political party for which she says she has initiated an active public contact campaign initially from Sindh. Though she hesitated from giving her clear words about launching a political party, but she said: "We have approached the people and if they decide, we can launch a new political party to bring about a real change for progress and prosperity". Marvi said she had already held 187 public rallies in 32 days in Sindh, adding the people had responded enthusiastically. Posters and billboards for a movement of 'change' have already sprung up all over Sindh and many influential figures are also extending their full support to my movement. She said all political parties including PTI could not achieve the targets as self-declared leaders enjoyed strong influence in them. A source said Imran Khan offered Marvi the slot of secretary general of his party and announcement in this respect was likely to be made in the Dec 25 public rally, but she refused to accept that offer mainly due to political differences.

**The News - January 23, 2012**

## Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality

### **Pink Bus Service: Three Women-Only Buses Launched**

A local bus company has launched a female-only bus service. Three pink buses with female collectors, but male drivers, ran on three routes at standard ticket prices on. The buses are an effort to offer women harassment-free travel. The buses would run from 6:30am to 7:30pm. One of the buses runs on CNG while two run on diesel. The buses ran on Route 33 from the General Bus Stand (Lorry Adda) to Green Town, Route 22 from Jallo Mor to Thokar Niaz Baig, and Route 1 from RA Bazaar to Sanda. They charged passengers between Rs. 15 and Rs. 35, with students paying a flat rate of Rs. 10. The bus on Route 1 got 52 passengers. First Bus Service officials got off the bus at stops to inform female passengers about the exclusive service. If these three buses would be successful, the company would expand the service. Nasir Mumtaz, assistant manager of the gender empowerment and social advocacy programme at the Kashf Foundation, welcomed the Punjab government initiative. He said the government should add more buses to the transport network and encourage the private sector participation in the sector. He said the government should also train female drivers for the service. The First Bus Service has over a hundred buses including 38 CNG buses. Hamza Shahbaz, speaking at the inauguration ceremony, said that if the pilot project were successful, female-only buses would be launched on more routes in the city. He said that 550 more buses would be brought to Lahore in March.

**The Express Tribune - January 06, 2012**

### **KP Assembly Passes Bill: Women in KP Can Now Inherit Property**

In an unprecedented move Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly passed "Enforcement of Women Ownership Rights Bill", which seeks to ensure provision of rights for women in the inherited property. Pakistan People's Party-Parliamentarian MPA from Swat Noor Sehar had tabled the bill last week, and the House with Deputy Speaker Khush Dil Khan in chair passed it unanimously bringing smile and cheers from the female MPAs who hailed the passage as a victory for women. "Women being the weaker segment of society was deprived of their legal rights of ownership and possession in the property, this practice needs to be curbed," the statement of objects and reasons of the bill read. The bill entitles provision of inherited rights to women in both moveable and immovable property, devolved upon and vested in woman by way of inheritance, gift, and purchase or acquired by her by way of any other legal and Shariah means. MPA Noor Sehar sought bar on depriving women of her ownership. "No person shall abridge, violate, curtail or obstruct the right of ownership or possession of women in inherited property," the bill read. It offers punishment with imprisonment of up to five years imprisonment and a fine not more than Rs 50,000. "Whenever a person is convicted of this offense, the court shall hand over possession of the property to the rightful owner," the bill states. The pro-women legislation also bound courts to take the decision in such matters within six months and district police shall hand over possession in one month after the court decision. Amendments by the mover, Noor Sehar, were passed and incorporated in the document. The government agrees with the mover of the resolution but the problem is that it is impossible to deploy only female in all the girls' schools of the province.

**Daily Times – January 06, 2012**

### **SC Seeks Record of CNICs Issued To Eunuchs**

The Supreme Court directed concerned authorities to provide a record of computerized national identity cards (CNICs) issued to eunuchs as well as details of their enrolment in the voters list. A two-member bench, comprising Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry and Justice Khilji Arif Hussain, asked the Social Welfare Ministry's secretary to monitor the process and directed all provincial governments to take concrete steps for the welfare of eunuchs, suggesting that

they be involved in tax collection on the pattern of neighboring India. Appearing on notice, Advocate General Balochistan informed the court that 107 eunuchs in 11 districts had been registered. He said the government has decided to provide free health services to eunuchs and a summary to this effect had already been sent to the chief minister. A community centre was also being established to provide entertainment opportunities to the eunuchs at a cost of Rs. 87 million. Rs. 30 million had already been received, and the rest of the amount was in the pipeline. The construction of the community centre would commence shortly. The court, while expressing dissatisfaction with the report submitted by Balochistan, observed that no concrete steps had been taken towards the welfare of the neglected segment of the society.

A representative of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa informed the court that inherited property had been transferred to some of the eunuchs in the province. Representatives of Sindh and Punjab also appraised the court of steps being taken for the welfare of eunuchs in their respective provinces. The Supreme Court, during a recent hearing, had directed the Election Commission to register eunuchs as voters to enable them to exercise their right to franchise in the next election. The court also directed the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) to expedite the procedure of issuing CNICs to eunuchs. The petitioner and counsel for eunuchs, Dr Aslam Khaki, all provincial law officers and President she-male Foundation Pakistan Almas Bobby, appeared before the court. As per the instructions of the Supreme Court, Nadra has already started issuing computerised NICs to eunuchs. Nadra centres across the country are serving eunuchs for registration. The court will resume hearing of the case in February.

**The News - January 06, 2012**

---

### **68 Cases of Online Female Harassment Registered In 2011**

Incidents of online harassment of females witnessed a rapid increase during 2011, as 68 cases were registered. District court records revealed that 68 cases of cybercrime were registered with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) against persons who were allegedly involved in hacking e-mail accounts of females, and sending them abusive, obnoxious and vulgar e-mails. Official sources in the FIA Cyber Crime Unit (CCU) said that the incidence of cybercrime in Pakistan had increased last year. Sources said that mostly youths were involved in these types of crimes. Sources added that 26 cases of cybercrime were reported to the CCU in 2007, while 36 were reported in 2008. In 2009 the ratio was lower, but rose to 45 in 2010. A First Information Report (FIR) was registered against Mohsin Khan for hacking e-mail accounts, and creating and uploading fake profiles on social networking site Facebook. These profiles also included mobile phone numbers of females. The accused was arrested on October 12 last year.

An FIR was also registered against a local varsity teacher, named Tanveer, who was involved in harassing a female employee of a local telecommunication company, by texting and sending her vulgar e-mails. The accused was arrested on March 19. Another FIR was against a person named Noman Asif, who was working as a computer expert in a private company, and had been involved in creating fake, vulgar Facebook accounts of four females from the same family. The case was registered on the request of complainant Afzal Qureshi, who said that some unidentified person had created fake profiles and uploaded pictures of his wife and three daughters on the social networking site. Qureshi said that Asif's phone number along with those of his wife and daughters had also been posted on these fake profiles. He added that Asif had tried to portray his family members as call girls, while himself posing as their agent. The FIA arrested Asif in February last year. Another case is under trial in District Court against two men, Syed Umair and Farhan Shah, who were involved in hacking the e-mail accounts of a female, and then harassed her by sending abusive, obnoxious, and vulgar e-mails. An FIR was also registered against Ghulam Mustafa, who was hired as a teacher for online preaching to overseas Pakistanis, but was later found to have sent e-mails with pornographic material to female clients. The accused was arrested on May 13.

A number of other cases were also registered under section 36 and 37 of the Electronic Transaction Ordinance (ETO) and 419 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) against persons involved in harassing females through the Internet. FIA CCU Investigation Officer Chaudhry Mumtaz told Daily Times that cybercrimes targeting females were increasing in society, while the FIA was trying to play its role to combat this trend. He said that the FIA could act more effectively if a comprehensive complaint was lodged and all required information was provided, but in majority of such cases victims avoid registering a complaint or provide false information to safeguard their identities. He added that a comprehensive strategy was being devised to counter cybercrimes more effectively.

**Daily Times - January 07, 2012**

---

### **Despite Issues, Transgender Celebrate Voting Rights**

Transgender took a giant leap towards becoming fully fledged citizens of the land as voter registration for the community began in Punjab. They were also issued with Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC) by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). Special counters have been established across the province to ensure the registration of all eunuchs, thought to number about 13,500 in Punjab. At least 45 votes were registered to transgender in Lahore. The social welfare department said that special counters have been set up in all 36 districts in the province at their district offices, as well as at offices of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The day was not all joy, as protests erupted after it emerged NADRA would charge Rs. 1,000 for each ID card. But the protests achieved their objective. After the fees were cancelled, transgender celebrated and chanted slogans lauding Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry. Another issue that has cropped up involves the gender and paternity to be stated on the CNICs, which is yet to be resolved. According to NADRA, the cards will bear the father's name of the transgender, who would prefer their 'guru' to be named instead. The issue is set to be settled by the Supreme Court next month. The gender column is also a matter of confusion. It seems that, in some parts of Punjab, NADRA will term the gender 'female'. Originally, through, a NADRA spokesman said in a statement that as per the Supreme Court's instructions, third genders could have male transgender, female transgender or Khunsa-e-mushkil written on their ID card, according to their own preference. In Rawalpindi, at least 21 voters were registered and 25 NICs were issued to members of the transgender community. Many eunuchs refused to obtain a CNIC card, though, as Nadra officials of NADRA pressed them to enter the name of their actual father instead of their guru. Almas Bobi, representing a eunuchs' association in Rawalpindi, said they would inform the Supreme Court next month about the non-registration of names of gurus by Nadra officials.

Many of them had old identity cards where our sex is mentioned male and the name of gurus is mentioned in the column of father. There are many of them who do not want to have the name of their father after they were abandoned in childhood by their families and they were brought up by their gurus. But at the end of the day, optimism reigned supreme as others were looking forward to playing a fuller part in political life. The CNIC and right to vote will increase our self-confidence and self-respect. Rawalpindi Commissioner Zahid Saeed said if there were any issues, they would be decided by the Supreme Court, and the registration process would be completed in accordance with new directions from the court. However, cultural constraints and a lack of understanding about the transgender community in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have delayed the registration process for a national identity card. Another problem is the number of Afghans in the transgender community. The situation in Afghanistan is not comforting to our kind at all; our people are sexually harassed and sometimes even tortured, leaving no other option but to migrate to Pakistan.

**The Express Tribune - January 26, 2012**

---

## HR WATCH

### Women & HR

#### **Domestic Violence: Woman Set On Fire, Another Killed For ‘Honor’ By In-Laws**

While the government has passed several bills to prosecute discriminatory practices, violence against women continues to rise dramatically, suggesting that more needs to be done to implement these laws to protect the vulnerable. Two married women were allegedly killed by their in-laws in separate incidents in Hazara division. In the first incident, a married woman was allegedly set on fire in Kotnajibullah village. The deceased was the mother of two minor children. The police have arrested three suspects in the case. The police quoted Taj Bibi, a resident of Pandak village, as saying that her 28-year-old daughter Romana married to a shopkeeper, Aftab Ahmed and would often complain about her in-laws’ hostile attitude. One evening, she quarreled with her father-in-law Abdul Manan, her brother-in-law Irfan and Irfan’s wife Fauzia. As a consequence, Romana’s in-laws doused her with kerosene oil and set her on fire. According to the complainant, her daughter was not even taken to the hospital and was left to succumb to burn injuries. She said her daughter was completely burnt and she found her charred body in the kitchen when she reached the house after Romana’s husband informed her. The police have arrested the three suspects under section 302/34 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Meanwhile, a woman was shot dead in the name of honor, while her alleged boyfriend was injured when a former union nazim opened fire at them in Shalkanabad, Palas valley. According to local people, the cold-blooded murder was committed on suspicion. Station House Officer Sarwar Khan told that the 27-year-old Saira Bibi, a mother of three and a teacher at a government school was seen talking to Ilyas by some students through a gap in the school’s boundary wall. Unaware of their teacher’s fate, the students told their parents about the incident, who informed Saira’s father-in-law Haibat Khan, a former union nazim, about the incident. Infuriated, Khan first attacked Ilyas near his home and shot him with an AK-47. However, he managed to survive and reach home. He then went home and shot his daughter-in-law, killing her on the spot. According to police sources, when Khan found out Ilyas had survived the attack, he besieged his house, firing continuously. However, when the police intervened, he and his accomplices fled and Ilyas was taken to a hospital in Abbottabad. Incidents of honor killings in Kohistan have shown a marked increase in the past few months. Earlier in December 2011, four persons, including two women, were killed in the name of honor.

**The Express Tribune - January 05, 2012**

## Child Rights

#### **Over 76% Parents Favor Corporal Punishment**

Over 76 percent parents in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province believe that moderate punishment is important to discipline children, whereas child right activists stress the elimination of corporal punishment at schools. The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child has conducted a baseline recently that reveals 76 percent parents from Peshawar, Swabi, Charsadda, Mardan and Nowshera districts are in favor of moderate punishment to discipline their children. Any state’s legislation could shape the attitude and practices of that society and hence an explicit ban on corporal punishment at schools was of great importance. And that process must be supported by raising awareness on the harms of corporal punishment. If corporal punishment is eliminated from home, it will support its elimination from all settings, and in connection with this, the SPARC strongly suggests the need to repeal Section 89 of Pakistan Penal Code (1860), which allows a mild to moderate corporal punishment by the guardian to discipline a child below 12. This ambiguous legislation had also led to the gaps in

newer legislations regarding the issue. The bridge to those gaps, the SPARC was pushing an anti-corporal punishment bill in Sindh, with a resolve to eliminate the practice from other social settings. The SPARC has also established 75 punishment-free schools in Peshawar, Swabi, Charsadda, Mardan and Nowshera and the organization is also conducting teacher trainings in seven tehsils in coordination with the Rawalpindi Education Department. A follow-up consultation is conducted with the education department, to sensitize it against the corporal punishment.

However, along with all the legislations to support a clear ban on corporal punishment in all settings, SPARC is also working to eliminate corporal punishment from home and schools through various interventions. Case studies of corporal punishment in home setting are seldom reported. A baseline survey being conducted in Nowshera reveals that in some cases children had received harsh punishments for not obeying their parents. Focus group discussions with children reveal that they receive punishment from both the mother and the father, which shows importance of trainings and awareness rising on positive parenting. Realizing the prevalence of corporal punishment from home, SPARC has started a pilot project in Nowshera. In a master training to promote positive parenting, selected lead trainers are to bring the attitudinal change in ten union councils of Nowshera. Various types of corporal punishment and violence against children highlighted include severe beating, abusing, stopping children from going to school and early child marriage. According to SPARC, the project team of Nowshera is making efforts to win the support of clerics and madrassa heads of Nowshera to eliminate corporal punishment at least from at home. In the first phase, Pakistan Today learnt, above 300 fathers will be sensitized about positive parenting and in the second phase will involve mothers. To bring a sustainable change, the ADOs from education department and clerics are being involved in the initiative, she said. This project aims to bringing the attitudinal and behavioral change through earning support from religious leaders as they are in the best position to convince a layman through briefing child rights with special reference to Quran in Jumma sermons.

**Pakistan Today – January 02, 2012**

---

### **Fata Takes Lead in Protecting Child Rights**

Fata is the country's first administrative unit to prepare and launch the policy to ensure the children's protection against all forms of violence, abuse, discrimination, neglect and exploitation. Under the policy, the Fata social welfare department will establish social welfare complex in all tribal agencies. Five child protection centres in Safi tehsil of Mohmand Agency have already been established in 2010 and such facilities will also be set up at tehsil level of all Fata agencies for welfare of children. In addition to it, Fata Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Children will also be established to work for the effective supervision and coordination of child rights and protection activities. The policy further said apart from mass awareness for children protection, shelters would also be provided for disowned, kidnapped and orphan children besides rehabilitation services for victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts. Fata Secretariat will make efforts for enhancing coordination between the agency administration and Nadra for achieving universal child birth registration under a pilot programme in Fata. The policy launching ceremony at the Governor's House here was attended by former chief secretary Ejaz Qureshi, additional chief secretary Fata Fazal Karim Khattak, officials of Unicef and Fata Secretariat, tribal elders and other stakeholders. A memorandum of understanding was also signed between Fata Secretariat and Nadra for Fata birth registration pilot project. A momentous step is taken for millions of Fata children whereby the government with help of friendly donors is going to ensure a child protection policy for them in more effective and coordinated manner. He said the government had the political will and firm determination for implementation of the policy in letter and spirit. Formulation of the policy was an uphill task. It had been a process which called for considerable diligence and hard work

to compete with feasible options, which meet the standard of UN Convention on Child Rights and to which Pakistan is a signatory since 1990. The governor said the difficult situation faced by Fata people was not of their creation, adding that they laid down their lives for ensuring regional and world peace. International community and donor agencies are asked to support the government in reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure for socioeconomic development of tribal people. 'It is the responsibility of the state to provide free education to children under 18th amendment and the government will ensure it'. Children would deliver the desired results in education if they're properly groomed and looked after. The governor directed the additional chief secretary Fata to establish social welfare complex in Khyber Agency.

**Dawn - January 11, 2012**

---

### **Child Marriages Violation of Human Rights, Say Legislators**

Members National Assembly, Kashmala Tariq and Palwasha Khan, while seeking recommendations from civil society against child marriages, have said that child marriages are a violation of human rights. The parliamentarians expressed these views in an interactive workshop on child marriages. The workshop was arranged by Rahnuma Family Planning Association of Pakistan (RFPAP). Kashmala Tariq told the participants that it was not priority of the government to stop human rights violation, including child marriages. Parliament has passed several bills, Hudood Act and Women Empowerment Act, but the problems could not resolve. She claimed the main problem was the non-implementation of these laws. Under Hudood Act, she said, the marriageable age for a girl increased from 12 to 16 years, and it took a lot of time to get it passed from parliament, while the marriageable age according to the UN is 18. The lowest budget was allocated to the ministry of human rights, she added. To discourage early marriages, she said, a comprehensive awareness programme was needed. She claimed that Hudood Bill was passed from parliament through active involvement of media. Palwasha Khan said that child marriage was a cultural and social problem and changing this trend will take a lot of time. To discourage it, the matter required a total change in the mindset of society, she said. Some child marriage victims, married at ages 12 to 16, also narrated their miseries. Most of them said that their parents married them away in early age because they were poor and unable to look after them.

Speaking on the occasion, RFPAP CEO Kamal Shah said that fertility rate in Pakistan is 6 percent, meaning that a woman could give birth to six children during her reproductive age. If the same trend continued, the population of Pakistan will become 470 million by 2050, making it the fourth most populous country in the world. He stressed there was a dire need to work on youth, which constituted 62 percent of the total population. Women Empowerment Director Nabila Malick gave a presentation on 'Child Marriages as a Violation of Human Rights', in which she highlighted the factors influencing child marriages, and explained the existing law and highlighted the inadequacies and the lack of implementation thereof. She said that child marriage was defined as any marriage carried out below the age of 18 years, before the girl is physically, physiologically, and psychologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage and childbearing. She said that there were several factors responsible for child marriages, including family ties, gender inequality, poverty and economic survival strategies, tradition and culture, and insecurity.

**Daily Times - January 19, 2012**

---

**‘No Progress on Domestic or Child Labor’**

Human rights activists and members of the Christian community highlighted the issues of child labor and domestic workers at a service marking the second death anniversary of Shazia Bashir, a teenager who died while working as a maid. The Human Liberation Commission of Pakistan (HLCP) had organized the service at FGA Church in Esa'abad, Mughalpura. Some of Shazia's relatives attended as well. Christian residents of Lahore staged angry protests after Shazia died two years ago, believing that she had been tortured to death by her employer. The Lahore High Court later acquitted a prominent lawyer of the killing. HLCP Chairman Aslam Pervez Sahotra said that women and children workers were being exploited and subjected to physical, mental and sexual abuse by their employers. Children are being sold to work in big houses. Sahotra said that employers also often victimized their servants through criminal proceedings. Employers lodge cases against their maids when they demand their wages or their due rights. The state had done nothing to protect this vulnerable group. Shazia had been employed through a broker who had not even told her parents where she was working. Shazia's employer had been acquitted because he was an influential man. Masiha Millat Party demanded that the government take steps to secure the rights of domestic workers so that no incident like the killing of Shazia happens again. The government should register all domestic workers and provide them social security and pensions. They should be given medical and other facilities under labor laws.

**The Express Tribune - January 23, 2012**

---

### Conflict Watch

**SC Seeks ISI, MI Reports on Balochistan Killings**

The Supreme Court directed the Inter-Services Intelligence and the Military Intelligence to submit reports on senseless and indiscriminate killings in Balochistan. The order was issued by a three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, Justice Khilji Arif Hussain and Justice Tariq Parvez during the hearing of a petition about the breakdown of law and order in the province. It was filed by Hadi Shakeel, former president of the Balochistan High Court Bar Association. The petitioner alleged that the federal and provincial governments had failed to protect the life and property of the people of Balochistan. The court was requested to ask both the governments to take steps to curb incidents of target killing, kidnapping and abduction for ransom. He said about 5,000 people had gone missing in the province. Mr. Shakeel also sought a court order for increasing the amount of compensation for families of the victims. At the last hearing, the court had asked representatives of the ISI to convey to the ISI director general a desire of the court to talk to the prime minister about the burning issue of Balochistan. Under Article 9 of the Constitution (security of person), it was the prime duty of the provincial as well as the federal governments to protect the life and property of people, the order said, deploring the law-enforcement agencies seemed to be helpless. The court said it had failed to understand why the federal government was not playing its role in containing the situation through a meaningful coordination with the provincial government. The court issued directives to the ISI and the Military Intelligence after the Intelligence Bureau and the Balochistan government had submitted their reports. In its report, the Intelligence Bureau claimed privilege. But the court observed that the report contained nothing which should be declared classified. However, the court asked the registrar to keep the report with him under seal.

**Dawn - January 28, 2012**

---

**BSO-M Threatens To Block TV Channels in Balochistan**

Baloch Students Organization (BSO-M) has threatened to block private TV channels transmission in Balochistan as well as Baloch-majority parts of Karachi from February 1, against an alleged indifferent attitude of the electronic media towards the killings of the Balochis. Addressing a press conference here Sunday, BSO-M Central Secretary General Javed Baloch said the people of Balochistan were fighting a war of their survival, but the media was paying no attention to their plight and ignoring all atrocities, being committed against them. He alleged that the media was turning a blind eye to the killings of the Baloch youth as it did not want to annoy the establishment. Meanwhile, Balochistan National Party Central Secretary Information Agha Hassan Baloch has also backed the BSO decision to block electronic media in the province.

The News - January 30, 2012

**Terrorist Incidents in January**

DATE	PLACE	KILLED	INJURED
January 1	Orakzai Agency In FATA	15	-
	Landikotal Tehsil Of Khyber Agency	12	-
	Dera Bugti District In Balochistan	4	2
January 2	Orakzai Agency In FATA	20	-
	Bilras, Bar Mella And Toor Semath Area Of Mamozai Tehsil	12	9
January 3	Landikotal Tehsil Of Khyber Agency	3	-
	Landi Kotal Bazaar Of Khyber Agency In FATA	3	8
January 4	Kurram Agency In FATA	10	-
	Zakhakhel Area Of Khyber Agency	7	-
	Zhob District Of Balochistan	5	13
January 5	North Waziristan Agency In FATA	15	-
January 6	Zakhakhel In Khyber Agency Of FATA	6	12
January 9	Orakzai Agency In FATA	10	-
January 10	Khyber Agency Of FATA	35	78
	Miranshah In The North Waziristan Agency	4	-
January 11	Turbat City Of Turbat District	14	-
	Orakzai Agency Of FATA.	11	6
January 12	Orakzai Agency In FATA	15	-
	Suburbs Of Peshawar Of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	10	-
	North Waziristan Agency In FATA	6	2
January 14	Bara Tehsil Of Khyber Agency	5	-
	Dera Ismail Khan District Of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	4	-
January 15	Khanpur City Of Rahim Yar Khan District	18	30
January 16	Kohlu District Of Balochistan	10	-
January 18	Bara Tehsil Of Khyber Agency In FATA	3	-
January 20	Tirah Valley Of Khyber Agency In FATA	4	-
January 23	North Waziristan Agency In FATA	5	-
January 24	Kurram Agency Of FATA	9	-
January 25	Kurram Agency In FATA	28	-
	Quetta Of Balochistan	3	-
	Karachi In Sindh	3	-
January 26	Dera Bugti District	6	-
	Gwadar District Of Balochistan	8	-
January 29	Dera Bugti District	3	-

(Accessed From: <http://www.satp.org>)

## Target Killings of Shias

Details of Shia Killings						
SUMMARY						
Description	Sindh	Balochistan	Punjab	KP	GB	Total
Killed	13	6	36	2	1	58
Injured	5	0	59	2	1	67
Attacks	15	4	7	3	3	32

  

Date	Province	Place	Event	Killed	Injured	Total
5 Jan	Balochistan	Quetta	Target killing	1	0	1
5 Jan	Gilgit-Baltistan	Gilgit	Target killing	1	0	1
5 Jan	Punjab	Lahore	Target killing	1	2	3
7 Jan	Gilgit-Baltistan	Gilgit	Murder attempt	0	1	1
7 Jan	KP	Peshawar	Target killing	1	0	1
8 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Failed bomb attack	0	0	0
8 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Murder attempt	0	2	2
9 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Target killing	1		1
12 Jan	Gilgit-Baltistan	Gilgit	Attack on house	0	0	0
12 Jan	KP	Peshawar	Murder attempt	0	1	1
12 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Target killing	1	0	1
13 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Target killing	1	1	2
15 Jan	Punjab	Khanpur; Rahim Yar Khan	Bomb attack	34	50	84
15 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Target killing	1	0	1
16 Jan	Punjab	Khanpur; Rahim Yar Khan	Failed bomb attack	0	0	0
16 Jan	Punjab	Rahim Yar Khan	Bomb attack	1	0	1
16 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Target killing	1	0	1
17 Jan	Balochistan	Hub	Target killing	1	0	1
18 Jan	Balochistan	Quetta	Target killing	1	0	1
19 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Target killing, attack on house	1	0	1
20 Jan	Punjab	Lahore	Judicial terrorism	0	0	0
22 Jan	Punjab	Jhang	Attack on Shia procession	0	7	7
22 Jan	Punjab	Okara	Attack on Shia procession	0	0	0
23 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Murder attempt	0	1	1
23 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Target killing	1	0	1
24 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Attack on Mosque; Imambargah	0	0	0
25 Jan	Balochistan	Quetta	Target Killing	3	0	3
25 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Target killing	3	1	4
28 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Target killing	1	0	1
30 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Target killing	1	0	1
31 Jan	KP	D.I. Khan	Target killing	1	1	2
31 Jan	Sindh	Karachi	Target killing	1	0	1

(Compiled From Different Dailies)

## Minority Rights

### Call for Protecting Fundamental Rights of Minorities

Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Harmony Dr Paul Bhatti said that the promotion of interfaith dialogue and harmony among the people of different faiths is the need of the hour. Addressing as chief guest at a seminar on 'Minority Rights in Pakistan; Challenges and

Prospects,' organized by Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Dr Paul said that minorities in Pakistan have been fighting with terrorism, illiteracy and poverty. Time has come to get united against these nuisances to promote interfaith dialogue and harmony among the people of different faiths to create an environment of peace and tolerance in society. Dr Paul said that the minorities all over the world should have security, equality and protection of the fundamental rights irrespective of their religion, caste or creed as the statistics show that the nations which ensure the rights of the minorities experience peace and development. The founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in his address to the members of Pakistan's first constituent assembly on August 11, 1947, declared equal rights and freedom to express faith. The government of Pakistan is trying its best to protect the rights of the minorities and subsequently four seats have been reserved for them in Senate, five percent quota has been fixed in government jobs and 11 August has been declared as minority day, while festivals of minorities are being celebrated officially to give them the feeling that they too are important citizens of Pakistan.

Daily Times - January 19, 2012

---

### **Caste Makes Them Outcast**

Lower castes of the Hindu community in the country feel hurt by our leaders' claims about democratic rights as they are excluded even from whatever representation the minority has in political bodies. Not a single Hindu from the so-called lower Scheduled caste occupies the seats meant for non-Muslims in the National Assembly, the Senate and the provincial assemblies. Political parties keep giving these seats to Hindus from the upper castes that then pretend that they represent all Hindus. How can these 'representatives' do anything for lower caste when they are not even willing to sit in the same vicinity or eat from the same plate with them? Lower caste is neglected, poor and not well educated and faces tremendous challenges; they need representation to bring about change. The total number of seats in the National Assembly is 342. Of these, 10 are designated as seats for non-Muslims, four of which are supposed to be for Hindus. In provincial assemblies, the seats for non-Muslims are 23. The process to fill minority seats without elections is undemocratic and against the spirit of the constitution. No surprise then that at a World Minority Alliance's event gave 'Tribute to Democracy', the emphasis was on formulating a system where minorities are given more say in who represents them. The system of electing minority seats in Pakistan is criticized which forces a candidate to become member of a political party. Unlike the pre-1997 system, when the Hindu community would directly vote for the candidates of their choice to elect representatives for the non-Muslim seats, now all minorities cast their votes like general voters for their favorite party and the winning party then selects candidates to fill non-Muslim seats in the national and provincial assemblies. A substantial variety wants some sort of electoral option where their representatives are 'elected' rather than 'selected'. A dual vote can vote for the minority seats as well as take part in the majority election and vote for the party of our choice.

Dawn - January 21, 2012

---

### **Worship Site Row: Large Protest against Ahmedis in Rawalpindi**

A large number of local activists from different religious parties gathered near a local hospital to urge the government to stop what they called the 'unconstitutional activities' of Ahmedis in Rawalpindi. Arranged by trading associations, the protest was attended by activists from Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Jamat-e-Islami, Sipah-e-Sahaba and Ahl-e-Sunnat Jammata. The protest was headed by Sharjeel Mir and Shahid Gafoor Paracha. Over 5,000 people attended the rally. Those who spoke at the gathering urged Ahmedis to stop their religious activities, which include preaching and worshipping in the area. The participants were carrying flags of different religious parties – including banned outfits – and also portraits of Mumtaz Qadri, the convicted killer of former Punjab governor Salmaan Taseer, chanted slogans against Ahmedis. The

protestors, in no uncertain terms, urged the city administration to stop the activities of the minority community. The Ahmedis, a few years ago, purchased the building E-69 in Satellite Town and set up a place of worship besides carrying out preaching in residential areas, creating problems for their neighbors. People did not object to any community living in the area, but would not tolerate the place of worship in the locality. Ahmedis have erected barriers and posted private guards on the main road adjoining the hospital for their safety. The businessman said that Ahmedis had raised high walls around their building and installed security cameras, in addition to posting snipers at the rooftop. The building does not even look like a religious place it is more like a fortress, creating problems for the neighbors. On the other hand, Ahmedis say the building was built after Jamat-e-Ahmedia purchased the land, being a registered organization, and under the relevant rules they could continue worshipping in the building. Members of the community, asking not to be identified, said that, following attacks on their places of worship in Lahore, they erected movable barriers and deputed some young men to patrol every Friday after getting due permission from the district administration. The community removed the security measures following the protests.

**The Express Tribune - January 30, 2012**

---

## HR Related Issues

### **50% Drop In Drone Strikes as Pak-US Ties Plunge**

US drone strikes in Pakistan are still considered a taboo topic, but in spite of the little information available, reports indicate strikes have decreased by almost 50%. A total of 118 drone attacks were reported in 2010, while in 2011 this figure dropped to 67 strikes. There is a general consensus that the 'war on terror' in Pakistan is in many ways directly linked to the security situation in Afghanistan. Questions relevant to the drone strikes are: Does a decrease in drone strikes mean a decrease in suicide attacks? Does the US withdrawal from Afghanistan mean the end of terror in Pakistan? Former chief secretary of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Khalid Aziz thinks the problem Pakistan faces is far more deep-rooted, and can't be solved merely through American withdrawal from Afghanistan. While a post US withdrawal from Afghanistan scenario can only be speculated upon at this point, what is certain is that 2011 witnessed fewer drone attacks. This decline can be attributed to three reasons. Firstly, there's the Raymond Davis issue, which he refers to as the 'Great Embarrassment' after much talk of so-called Black Water and CIA operatives in Pakistan. Osama's capture from Pakistan in a covert operation added to the mistrust between both the countries – but the Salala check-post attack on November 26 was the last nail in the coffin. Furthermore, US intentions in Afghanistan become clearer with withdrawal nearing; the pressure on Pakistan is reduced. According to Col (Retd) Khalid Munir, a retired army officer well acquainted with the geography and politics of the tribal regions, another reason is the increasing coverage on the questionable legality of these strikes and lawsuits filed by drone strikes victims' families. These legal issues might seem small at the moment, but I think they will have a great impact in the future. Drone strikes have continuously been the subject of resolutions, and debated in parliament with regard to sovereignty. The reality of the attacks, however, is felt more starkly by those close to them – drone attacks have claimed some 370 lives and injured more than 50 this year, with varying figures from different sources. These figures however, remain independently unverifiable.

**The Express Tribune - January 05, 2012**

---

### **Qadri Supporters Offer Rs. 100m for 'Holy Gun'**

Around a thousand people gathered at Data Darbar in support of Mumtaz Qadri, the man who killed Punjab governor Salmaan Taseer one year ago, and called for his release. Supporters of various religious parties that form the Tahaffuz Namoos-i-Rasalat Mahaz (Front for the

Protection of the Prophet's (peace be upon him) Honour) staged protests at the Lahore Press Club, Minar-i-Pakistan and other places before gathering at the Darbar. The participants, mostly Bareilvi Muslims, held up portraits of Qadri and chanted slogans in his honor. They also roared as their leaders announced a resolution denouncing the media for not giving them 'proper' coverage. When the clock struck 4:25pm, the hour marking exactly one year since Taseer was killed, by standing, raising their arms and pledging to follow Qadri "against every blasphemer". One speaker, Allama Muhammad Tahir Tabassum, suggested that the government auction off the gun with which Qadri shot the governor. It was then announced that the Sunni Ittehad Council was willing to pay Rs. 100 million for the "holy gun". Allama Muhammad Nawaz Bashir Jalali paid tribute to Qadri for "remaining firm" that his actions were justified and right. He said Qadri had gained international fame for the killing, and the love "not just of mankind, but birds too". Advocate Habibullah Saeedi, one of the lawyers who famously garlanded Qadri when he was brought to the Rawalpindi courts, said that the legal fraternity backed the assassin. Dr Raghieb Naeemi said the "true lovers" of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) would continue "eliminating the blasphemers" regardless of the views of the outside world. A resolution was adopted at the end of the rally asking President Asif Zardari to declare clemency for Mumtaz Qadri.

**The Express Tribune - January 05, 2012**

---

### **1,300 Conflict-Hit Children Provided Psychological Support**

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in collaboration with the Danish Red Cross (DRC) rehabilitated more than 1,300 children suffering from psychological disorders due to the traumatic experience of violence in Swat district under the Psychosocial Support Programme (PSP) in the last two years. Programme Manager of the PSP Amjad Hilal said that children in Swat suffered a lot due to the violent activities of the militants and the subsequent military action in the area. Children being vulnerable anywhere in the world to the impact of war and violence remained no exception in Swat where heavy fighting and pitched battles were fought. The schools were forcibly closed and bombed and created insecurity among the minors. The atmosphere of violence, insecurity and fear had caused psychosocial disorders among the children. The exodus from Swat further worsened the normal psychological state of children. Under the PSP trainings were provided to the teachers of selected schools in Swat to share their learning and experiences with the students. The PSP Programme Officer Iftikhar Ahmad said the programme was started in Swat from January 2010 in seven schools and two community centres of Kanju Union Council. He said apart from the training, parks and libraries were also constructed in the target schools and community centres for children. The children were asked to share the experience of their sufferings. Activities like debate and drawing competitions were also arranged and the children were taken to different parts of Swat for recreational activities in the rehabilitation process.

**The News - January 06, 2012**

---

### **Human Rights: Government Wakes Up To the Rising Trend of Police Torture**

The Punjab police has been instructed to stop torturing suspects in custody after the Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights took note of media reports of an 'increasing trend of police torture' in the province. The committee reaffirmed that police have no legal right to torture suspects at police stations and lockups, according to the minutes of the meeting which were forwarded to the additional IG (Investigation), who in turn sent a circular to the IG for action to curb illegal police practices. According to the committee's report, five men were killed and 137 suspects left disabled after police torture in Lahore in 2011 and so far in 2012. Forty-six cases of custodial killings or torture were registered against policemen in 2011. Most recently, hundreds of residents of a village on the outskirts of Lahore gathered in front of the press club to demand justice after Niamat Ali, a father of seven, was allegedly tortured to death over the course of several days in illegal detention. The committee's report said that the

discussion on torture stemmed from recent media reports “of cases in which police officers have transgressed the boundaries of human rights and subjected people to torture, sometimes resulting in custodial deaths. This has been portrayed as a trend which is increasing.” The committee urged the police to revise their investigation methods and concentrate on collecting physical evidence using forensic techniques rather than coercing suspects into making confessions. It also called for improvements in the recruitment and training of police and other law enforcement personnel. “Only incompetent investigation officers believe in torture,” it said. The committee noted that torture was used not just to extract confessions, but also for purposes of extortion and corruption. It identified a lack of tolerance in society, lack of training in proper investigation techniques and lack of resources as some of the factors behind the widespread use of torture.

The report said that torture could be curbed in the short-term by ensuring that any complaints in this regard were registered and investigated as soon as possible. “The increase in the number of such cases is indicative of the tough approach of senior police officers,” it said, referring to the 46 cases registered against police officials in 2011. It called for training programmes in modern investigation techniques and noted that the Punjab Forensic Science Laboratory had recently been set up to strengthen evidence collection. For long-term improvements, said the report, the government “should distance themselves from the routine working of the police department [and] limit themselves to policy matters only.” It called for the formation of a non-political commission to look into transfers and postings and deal with complaints of police brutality. “A new law may be framed or the subject articles of the Police Order 2002 may be activated,” it said. Punjab Additional IG (Investigation) Muhammad Aslam Tareen said that police had already taken steps to curb torture and custodial deaths. A state-of-the-art forensics lab has been established in Lahore and training courses for investigating officers are being conducted regularly at the district level.

**The Express Tribune - January 23, 2012**

---

### **Not Approved: Rights Bill Goes To Senate Panel for Fine-Tuning**

The National Commission for Human Rights Bill, 2011 was dealt a blow in the Upper House after being referred to the standing committees of law & Justice and human rights for further debate. The bill, seeking the provision for the establishment of a National Commission for Human Rights, was passed in the National Assembly on December 21, 2011. Senate’s proceedings saw a majority of lawmakers of the view that the bill needed further discussion as the definition of human rights needed to be broadened. Senators demanded the deputy chairman to refer the Bill to the relevant standing committee. Highlighting the importance of the Bill to curb violations of human rights, Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid Senator SM Zafar and Jamat-e-Islami Senator Professor Khursheed Ahmed proposed amendments so as to cover all aspects regarding human rights. It is important to stop intelligence agencies from violating human rights and victimizing innocent people without solid evidence. National Party (NP) Senator Hasil Bezenjo said the present situation of Balochistan, where bodies are found on streets every day, is a glaring example of human rights violation. Senator Abdur Rahim Mandokhel, from Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), was the only senator who was in favor of passing of the bill without any further delay. He said violations of the human rights could be stopped if the government set up an independent commission. However, Leader of the House Nayyer Bokhari said that the bill can be improved if the standing committees examined it in detail, before approving it in Senate. Meanwhile, PML-Q lawmaker SM Zafar, on a point of order, explained that he had opposed the resolution approving trial and arrest of former president Pervez Musharraf, but he could not be heard by the chair. Although the majority voted in favor of the resolution, it was not unanimously passed and the record needs to be corrected.

**The Express Tribune - January 26, 2012**

---

## GOVERNANCE WATCH

### Political Governance

#### SC Gives Government Six Options in NRO Case Take Your Pick Mr. Prime Minister

Deciding a legal issue with unimaginable political ramifications while announcing its findings in the infamous National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) implementation case, gave six options for initiating contempt of court proceedings against the prime minister and the secretary law. The five-member SC full bench also observed that action may be taken against the president for violating the Constitution. The bench referred the matter to a larger SC bench, to be constituted by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry. "Prima facie the Prime Minister is not an honest man and violated his oath," the bench headed by Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa ruled in the verdict of the NRO implementation case. The court held that the "persistent, obstinate and contumacious resistance, failure or refusal" of the prime minister to completely obey and execute the directions issued in the NRO case reflects that "at least prima facie, he may not be an 'honest' person on account of his not being honest to the oath of his office and seemingly he may not be an 'ameen' due to his persistent betrayal of the trust reposed in him as a person responsible for preserving, protecting and defending the Constitution and also on account of allowing his personal political interest to influence his official conduct and decisions."

The court ruled that the government had failed to implement the verdict and was not taking interest in implementing the earlier NRO verdict. It also observed that instead of honoring his obligations under the Constitution, the prime minister had instead preferred party loyalties over his constitutional obligations. The court noted that the president in an interview had said his government would not implement one part of NRO verdict. The court in its order recommended the case to the chief justice to form a larger bench to hear the case to examine the six options including to initiate the contempt of court proceedings against the chief executive and the secretary law for not implementing the NRO verdict; to declare the chief executive ineligible from the membership of the Parliament; formation of a commission to get the verdict implemented, to leave the issue to the people to decide on the issue and the court exhibit patience; initiation of contempt proceedings against NAB chairman; and action may be taken against the president for violating the Constitution. The SC issued notice to the attorney general (AG) for Pakistan for addressing the arguments before the court on the next date of hearing, after obtaining instructions from those concerned, as to why any of the mentioned options may not be exercised by the court in these matters.

Earlier, during the hearing, the AG, NAB chairman and prosecutor general accountability told the court that no progress worth any mention has been made by all concerned in the matters mentioned in the order of January 3, 2012. The court expressed dissatisfaction over the reports and observed that an attempt has been made through the said reports to screen, shield and protect all those in public offices who were involved in appointments/promotion of the said convicted persons. On a court query the NAB prosecutor general confirmed the fact that the reports mentioned a clear conclusion about lack of criminal intent of all concerned and involved has been recorded without even holding a formal inquiry or investigation, which the court found to be strange and unusual. The prosecutor general went on to submit that even in the matter of proceeding against Malik Muhammad Qayyum, former AG, a decision has been taken by NAB not to initiate or take any proceeding despite a clear direction having been issued by the SC.

The chairman submitted in most categorical terms that no inquiry or investigation is warranted in those matters. The court however, observed that the NAB chairman NAB stated so in contemptuous disregard of the fact that the apex court has already passed an order for taking proceedings in those matters. The SC noted that the federal secretary law was absent from the court on the date of hearing on account of being abroad. The court recalled that in a recent

interview the co-chairperson of the major political party in the ruling coalition at the federal level, who also happens to be the President of Pakistan, has categorically stated that under his co-chairpersonship his political party has taken a political decision not to obey some part of the judgment handed down by the Supreme Court in the case of Dr Mobashir Hassan (supra). Even the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the federal minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Division have been harping on the same theme for quite some time on different occasions through speeches made on the floors of the National Assembly and the Senate and also through print and electronic media.

Their conduct in the matter also goes a long way in confirming what they have been proclaiming. Such an attitude, approach and conduct prima facie shows that the co-chairperson of the said political party, the prime minister and the federal minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Division have allowed loyalty to a political party and its decisions to outweigh and outrun their loyalty to the State and their 'inviolable obligation' to obey the Constitution and all its commands. The court observed that that in our country governed by a Constitution political loyalty cannot be accepted as stronger than loyalty to the State and dictates of a political master or party cannot be allowed to be put up as a defense to failure to obey the Constitution. The court gave six options in the case and forwarded to the Chief Justice of Pakistan to examine it by constituting a larger bench.

**Option No 1:** The prime minister is held in violation of his oath of office.

**Option No 2:** Proceedings may be initiated against the Chief Executive of the Federation i.e. the Prime Minister, the Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Division and the Federal Secretary Law, Justice and Human Rights Division for committing contempt of this court.

**Option No 3:** The court may appoint a Commission to execute the relevant parts of the judgment passed and directions issued in the case of Dr Mobashir Hassan (supra).

**Option No 4:** Afford an opportunity of hearing to the affected.

**Option No 5:** Appropriate recommendations or directions may be made or issued by this court against NAB chairman.

**Option No 6:** The court may exercise judicial restraint and leave the matter to the better judgment of the people of the country or their representatives in the Parliament to appropriately deal with the delinquent.

**The News - January 11, 2012**

---

### **National Assembly: MQM Introduces Bill for Two New Provinces**

A day after the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) voted for a pro-democracy resolution in the National Assembly, the government on Tuesday returned the favor and did not oppose MQM's constitutional amendment bill seeking creation of new provinces in Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P). "The Constitution (Twentieth Amendment) Bill, 2012" for the creation of Southern Punjab and Hazara provinces was introduced by MQM's Wasim Akhter during a private members' day of the ongoing special session of the National Assembly convened in the wake of an apparent rift between civil and military leadership. The move by the MQM comes despite some considerable opposition on the topic. Senator Raza Rabbani, the architect of the 18th Amendment, had rubbished even the idea of a 'debate' over the issue in the lower house last week against the stance of the MQM. In addition to Rabbani, the Awami National Party (ANP) – a steadfast coalition partner of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) – had said that a resolution for the creation of new provinces cannot be tabled in the National Assembly. The government, however, not only supported the MQM but had also pledged to introduce two separate bills for Seraiki and Hazara provinces. However, the government's priorities changed in the wake of the pro-democracy resolution and the MQM moved its bill on private members' day when as many as 12 other bills were introduced while three were dropped. Seeking four

amendments in Article 1, 51, 106 and 239 of the Constitution, MQM's bill has climbed the ladder first as it was referred to the concerned committee of the National Assembly for further deliberations. It was also projected in the bill that the allocation of general seats and seats for women of the newly carved-out provinces, as provided under clause (1) of Article 51 and clause (1) of Article 106, shall be made on the basis of the population in the same proportion as it exists in the provinces of K-P and Punjab. Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid's (PML-Q) parliamentarians from the Hazara division including Sardar Shahjehan Yousaf and Farzana Mushtaq Ghani felicitated the MQM for introducing the bill. Meanwhile, the parliamentary secretary for interior told the lower house that the government has decided to start issuing machine readable passports with 10 years validity.

**The Express Tribune - January 18, 2012**

---

### **PA Meets to Get Nod on 'Returned Bills'**

The Punjab Assembly in its last session ending on January 9 passed 19 bills and the Assembly Secretariat sent those bills to the Governor's Secretariat for the assent of the constitutional head of the province. Among those the pertinent was the Punjab Local Governments (Amendment) Bill 2011 while the other 18 were pertaining to the departments devolved to the provinces by the Centre after the passage of 18th Amendment. It was an historic moment that the governor did not assent to even a single bill passed in the 31 days exercise of the assembly.

The Bills included are "The Hindu disposition of property bill (amendment) bill 2011", The Punjab conferment of proprietary rights on occupancy tenants and Muqarraaridars bill 2011, "The Punjab protection of breast feeding and child nutrition (amendment) bill 2011, "The Voluntary social welfare agencies (registration and control) (amendment) bill 2011," "The disabled persons (employment and rehabilitation) (amendment) bill 2011", "The antiquities bill 2011," "The charitable and religious trusts (amendment) bill 2011", "The defamation (amendment) bill 2011", "The official trustees (amendment) bill 2011", "The specific relief (amendment) bill 2011", "The administrators general's (amendment) bill 2011", "The injured persons (medical aid) (amendment) bill 2011", "The powers of attorney (amendment) bill 2011", "The provincial insolvency (amendment) bill 2011", "The Hindu heritage (removal of disabilities) (amendment) bill 2011," "The Hindu law of inheritance (second amendment) bill 2011", "The factories (amendment) bill 2011", "The minimum wages (amendment) bill 2011", "The road transport workers (amendment) bill 2011" and "The Local Government (second amendment) bill 2011".

Exercising his powers under Article 116 (2) (b) of the constitution, the Punjab governor gave reasons of returning the local government second amendment bill, saying article 140A of the constitution enjoins upon the province to establish a local government system and devolve political administrative and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representatives of the local government, but the proposed amendment in Section 28 of the ordinance regarding appointment of district coordination officer of any grade by replacing 'as far as possible an officer in BS-20', would lower and make the high office ineffective and vulnerable to appointment of favorites of the lowest grade, at the same time affecting upon the promotion prospects of the federal and provincial services resulting into litigation and resentment by these officers. About the clause dealing with postponement of local polls, the governor objected that it was completely contradictory to the conceptual scheme of democratic dispensation. He stated that through the Punjab Local Government (Amendment) Act 2010 promulgated on October 28, 2010, it was mandated that the local elections would be called within 365 days whose cut-out date expired on October 27, 2011. About the provision, authorizing the government to designate officer for initiation of annual performance report in respect of district coordination officer, the governor has said that it is "repulsive to democratic norms where people representatives' stand replaced with designated officer".

On appointing Ad hoc Accounts Committee for all local government in a district, the governor has viewed that it negates the concept of permanency so propounded by superior courts. "Adhocism has never augured well for good governance". The governor has also quoted a Supreme Court judgment pronounced on October 7, 2011 in CP No 1017-L of 2011 to establish his point. While on the other 18 bills the Punjab governor has raised the objections of similar nature saying the Punjab Assembly did not have the right to replace words in bills that extended the bill to entire Pakistan, including Punjab, as such would be a clear violation of Article 143 of the constitution. It is pertinent to mention here there the Punjab legislature had changed the word 'Pakistan' with 'Punjab' and 'whole of the country' with 'province' owing to the passage of 18th Amendment in the constitution that devolved several departments to the provinces. Under the 18th Amendment article 270AA was promulgated and as per sub clauses 4&9 for purpose of devolution under clause 8 the federal government and shall constitute an implementation commission which would be constituted and headed by Senator Raza Rabbani. The Punjab government has decided that these returned bills would be moved in the provincial assembly through a motion and get passed. "As many as 19 resolutions would be tabled in the House regarding these bills and after getting the nod of the House would be sent to the governor for his assent. These would become act automatically after 10 days in case the governor does not sign those," said Rana Sanaullah Khan, Punjab Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs while talking to

**Daily Times - January 18, 2012**

---

### **38th NA Session: 44% of Agenda Items Remain Unaddressed**

The 38th or second last sitting of the National Assembly in its fourth parliamentary year, dubbed 'unnecessary' by the opposition, lasted six days (from December 15-22), but the house remained in session for just 10 hours. The session lasted 10 hours and eight minutes, with each sitting starting with an average delay of 57 minutes, the house left 44 per cent of the agenda items unaddressed (of those which appeared on the Orders of the Day), primarily due to 110 points of order which consumed 43 per cent of the total session time: 288 of 668 minutes. The house adopted a pro-democracy resolution in the wake of the government's entangled relations with the army, but point of orders interrupted proceedings which left certain agenda items unaddressed. In addition to the resolution, the lower house of the parliament passed the National Commission for Women Bill, 2011 and the Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University Bill, 2011. Meanwhile, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) tabled the 20th Amendment Bill for the creation of new provinces in Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, whereas the government moved the 20th Amendment Bill to legalize the by-elections which were held when the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was incomplete. Twelve Private Members' Bill(s) were also introduced and sent to respective standing committees. PML-N raised 36 points of order, MQM 17, PML 4, MMAP 2, ANP 2, and PPPS 1, while independent members raised 7. The ruling PPP took the floor 37 times mostly to respond to the opposition's criticism. None of the points of order attracted the formal ruling's attention and remained futile. A party-wise analysis shows that 96 per cent of MQM parliamentarians took part in the proceedings, followed by MMAP's 50 per cent, PMLN's 48 per cent, PPPP's 25 per cent and 25 per cent of the ANP. The parliamentary leaders of ANP, NPP and PPPS attended four sittings each, BNPA and MQM three each, PML two, while MMAP and PMLF leaders attended one sitting each. Although the quorum was visibly lacking at various stages of the session, it was not pointed out by any of the legislators. The House took up five calling attention notices raised by nine male and nine female members. Four were sponsored by PMLN and one was tabled by PPPP members.

**The Express Tribune - January 25, 2012**

---

## NA Body Approves Draft of 20th Constitutional Amendment

Standing Committee of National Assembly on Law and Justice has approved the draft of 20th constitutional amendment bill moved to protect the by elections held under the incomplete Election Commission. Seven members were present out of 17 when the NA body approved it. The Supreme Court (SC) had given time to the government for amendment to protect members of National and provincial assemblies who were elected till February 06. The court has warned that if parliament would not protect the members than court would suspend their membership. Committee chairperson Naseem Chaudhry chaired the meeting held to review the preparation of electoral lists issue and constitutional amendment. No PML-N member attended the proceedings. The committee has termed the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) authority to prepare electoral rolls unconstitutional. Sub-committee of NA body presented its report regarding the lists, which said that under the Constitution local governments are entitled to carry out this responsibility. Confusion needed to be removed, the report demanded.

The News – January 31, 2012

## Federal & Provincial Governments

### Reforming HEC and ECP

There seems little in common between the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), except for the “E” and “C” which suggest vitamins to you. But that is just the tip of a series of similarities that characterize these two great institutional showpieces. Both have important mandates that can seriously impact upon the political and academic standards in Pakistan. Both chose to take shortcuts to glory. Both suffer from megalomaniacal tendencies of big numbers, big talks and big plans. Both opted for quantity over quality in everything that they undertook. Both are in need of immediate and drastic reforms. The commonalities are endless. While the HEC focused on increasing the numbers of universities and PhDs in the country, the Election Commission came up with a voting list which had 37.2 million bogus entries. For the ECP, it was more important to show a large figure of 82 million registered voters, even if half of them were fake. “Big is beautiful” seems to be the philosophy driving both institutions. In a game of numbers, the HEC went overboard and made compromises in its “quality control” over scrutiny of universities, the competence of vice chancellors, the rampant plagiarism in PhD theses and the use of fake journals in the publication of research articles. By introducing financial rewards and promotions based on the number of papers published, the HEC encouraged a culture of greed in publications, which led to hasty output of low-quality research material of little practical use to a developing country, or any country, for that matter. Not taking steps to scrutinize the ranking of journals resulted in the HEC’s PhD-approved supervisors getting scores of their articles published in many fake journals. Inadequate controls to check plagiarism in articles and to differentiate between real and fake journals have led to a massive race for publication of substandard material in dubious journals. It is vital for the HEC to take effective measures to curb these shortcuts, and shifts its focus from the number of universities and PhDs to developing academics that can inspire critical thinking and ethical values.

As for the Election Commission, in a hurry to come out with a grand voters’ list, it failed to scrutinize the list and thus facilitated the construction of a bogus parliament that was based on 37.2 million invalid votes. Not the least remorseful about this criminal neglect, the ECP waited for the Supreme Court’s orders to expunge the 37.2 million bogus entries. The ECP continues to offer excuses as to why it cannot update the voters’ list. If only the ECP had developed some critical thinking, it could have taken the help of NADRA to accomplish this task in a matter of days, instead of dragging its feet for months. Pakistan became a unique democracy when an estimated 300 individuals defrauded the system and entered parliament with fake degrees and dual nationalities. More than it was to the public and the media, this fact was well known to both the ECP and the HEC. However, both failed to do what they ought to have done for verification of

credentials or taking actions to unseat these dubious individuals. An offence of this nature, in a more civilized country, could not only make these individuals lose their seats but also entitle them to a few months of free meals in prison. Even when cases like that of Babar Awan having a distant-learning fake PhD degree from a certain “Monticello University” were reported by the press and confirmed by the United States Educational Foundation, both the ECP and the HEC decided to look the other way. The ECP intentionally violated its own rules when it failed to see anything wrong with re-elections of candidates like Jamshed Dasti whose fake degree had been exposed only a few days earlier. Not to be left behind, competitor HEC shelved all considerations of quality when it failed to question Karachi University’s lack of discretion in awarding a PhD degree to the undeserving interior minister solely for the purposes of political appeasement. With election fever in the air, one hears of demands and promises of all shades. Reforming the ECP and HEC, however, does not appear to be a high-priority agenda for either the citizens or the political parties. These two institutions desperately await reforms, autonomy and leadership by people of both high caliber and integrity. It is also time to address the critical issue of how these important institutions are held accountable when they fail to deliver on what is dictated by their mandate.

**The News - January 05, 2012**

---

## **Demand for New Province**

### **ANP Flays MQM for Demanding Hazara Province**

The Awami National Party (ANP) says that the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM)’s resolution for the Hazara province is nothing more than a political stunt and a wicked move. The MQM must have followed the Constitution if it is really sincere with the Hazara people. Such a resolution must be first presented in the relevant provincial assembly to get approval of two-thirds majority and NA and Senate are the next constitutional options. The MQM has tried to play with the sentiments of the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa people as neither has it enjoyed a representation in the provincial assembly nor in the Hazara areas it proposes to be given the status of a province. Muttahida has attempted through the resolution to pave the way for the creation of another province within Sindh as well as to get sympathies of Hazara people. The ANP senior vice president was for creating no hurdles in the way if the new federating units are established within the ambit of the Constitution. The same spirit, he maintains, will be upheld by the ANP, in case the people from other areas, including the Seraiki belt and Hazara, launch struggle under the constitutional and political process. Opposed to new provinces where there is no feasible population and the area of the proposed (federating) unit such as the Hazara districts is also not feasible. His point saying that Balochistan is spread over a vast area is among unsuitable provinces as it gets 9.9 percent of the total federal funds against its five percent share in overall population. About Seraiki, he said the southern Punjab is the only feasible proposed federating unit in terms of its population and area. The Seraiki belt has area proportionate to its 45 million populations. Signed by 25 MQM members, its deputy parliamentary party leader Haider Abbas Rizvi, earlier, submitted the resolution in NA Secretariat for making Hazara a separate province and carving out two provinces out of South Punjab. Mansehra, Abbottabad, Kohistan, Haripur, Batagram and Toor districts are proposed to be formed as a province in the name of Hazara as the resolution called for a referendum in southern Punjab about the proposed new federating unit, the Seraiki province.

**The Nation – January 05, 2012**

---

### **Two-Thirds Agree On Seraiki Province: Gilani**

Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said the government would extend all out support to the bill or the resolution aimed at the creation of new provinces in the country, and the government had

achieved two-third majority consensus for the establishment of Seraiki province. Speaking in the National Assembly, he said elected representatives from Seraiki and Hazara regions had held discussions with him on the issue, adding that his party was also in favor of the creation of a new province. After consultations, consensus had been developed on the creation of Seraiki province and the government should not miss this opportunity to remove the sense of deprivation of the people of the area. Several resolutions were moved in the Punjab Assembly regarding the creation of Seraiki province, but the provincial assembly refused to discuss the issue. About Hazara province, the prime minister said he had referred the matter to the manifesto committee to evolve consensus on it. However, "We should not come under the influence of any spoiler to miss opportunity for the creation of the Seraiki province," he said. There is complete consensus on it and if it fails this time, the people of the area will never forgive the government. Summing up his debate on new provinces, Gilani said, "No province can come into existence by tabling a resolution for only making headlines." Assuring his government's support for the issue, the PM said he was not just in a statement gimmick; instead, the government was taking solid measures. Talking to reporters after the session, MQM Parliamentary Leader in the NA Dr Farooq Sattar said the nation should witness the consequence of a serious attempt by his party.

**Pakistan Today – January 07, 2012**

---

### **All In For Creation of Hazara Province**

Hazara-based civil society members, journalists and political leadership expressed their resolve to struggle for the creation of a separate province. They warned of a series of protests and a civil disobedience movement in Hazara if their demand is not met. This was decided at a grand jirga (meeting) held at the house of Hazara Newspapers Society's chief Pir Alamzeb Shah. The leaders agreed on a single-point agenda for gearing-up the campaign for Hazara province both outside and inside the parliament by utilizing every available option. They said that since the demand for Hazara province is genuine and based on the aspirations of the people of Hazara — who have been suffering discrimination for the last 65 years — they would continue to pursue their goal and mobilize the political leadership across the country. They said that the people of Hazara have "sacrificed their seven lives for the cause of Hazara province" and would not backtrack from the demand.

**The Express Tribune - January 30, 2012**

---

### **Reps Want Malakand Division Divided For Better Admin**

Elected representatives are staunchly favoring partition of Malakand division into two and believe it would enable the government firmly maintain its writ in the region. Political leaders from all the seven districts of the division have floated the proposal of administratively dividing Malakand into two divisions and the provincial government has agreed to it in principle. Consensus on the issue was achieved in a meeting between the chief minister and senators, MNAs and MPAs from Malakand division. The elected representatives are convinced that smaller units would facilitate better administration of these districts as government officials would be able to access more areas and maximum number of people. The political leaders from the region believe that two divisions would help the government maintain a strong writ there. The area [of Malakand division] is large and the population has soared, and it's difficult to be controlled from one administrative seat. Small units will help in the development of backward districts, minimize people's problems, and ensure strong government writ and better security. Five districts, particularly Swat, were infested by Taliban militants for almost two years and the writ of the government was challenged. Swat, Buner and Lower Dir were ravaged by Taliban and military operations. These districts were retaken by the military in a series of operations in 2009. The elected leadership from Swat, Buner and Shangla desires to form a separate division and maintain the current headquarters in Mingora, Swat's administrative seat. Politicians from

Upper Dir, Lower Dir and Chitral want another division of these three districts. However, they have disagreement over its headquarters. Members of the KP Assembly from Upper Dir want Dir as the headquarters. Some elected representatives from Lower Dir want to make Timergara its headquarters and others Chakdarra. The government also intends to make Timergara its nerve centre. Malakand Agency is still indecisive about becoming part of either of the proposed divisions. A resolution for the division of Malakand, lawmaker Zakirullah said, had been presented in the assembly by him and two other MPs. Swat, Buner and Shangla districts were part of the erstwhile State of Swat until 1969 that was ruled by Wali of Swat. The elected representatives from these three districts want to form a separate division. The elected members said finances would not hobble the plan as they thought the required infrastructure and staff were already there. Hidayatullah said the decision to split Malakand division had been taken in principle but an order of the Election Commission of Pakistan had prevented the provincial government to announce it.

**The News - January 30, 2012**

---

## ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

### Facts & Figures

#### **SBP and Finance Ministry Give Conflicting Estimates of Fiscal Deficit**

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Ministry of Finance gave contradictory estimates to the Senate Standing Committee on Finance about the fiscal deficit, which the central bank projected over 6 per cent whereas Finance Ministry claimed would be contained at 4.7 per cent of GDP during the current fiscal year. Foreign exchange reserves might fall by \$5 billion. The central bank warned that in case the projected foreign inflows did not materialize during the current fiscal the foreign exchange reserves might fall by \$5 billion from current level of \$17 billion. It said the foreign exchange reserves were likely to register a sharp fall during the second half of current fiscal year due to large repayments of external debt, including \$1.2 billion of the IMF loan. If projected foreign inflows did not materialize then the country's fiscal deficit will be over 6 per cent of GDP at the end of the current fiscal year. However Secretary Finance Dr Waqar Masud claimed that the fiscal deficit would be contained at 4.7 percent of GDP. He said estimates of fiscal deficit were 2.5 per cent of GDP during the first half of current fiscal year. Pak rupee depreciates by 4.4pc against US dollar. The committee was informed by SBP that the pressure on foreign exchange reserves and exchange rate has already increased, and reserves have declined by \$1.2 billion till December 31. Pak Rupee has depreciated by 4.4 per cent till Dec 31, against US dollar. The meeting was informed that inflation was declining but still price trends in cotton and oil prices were severely affecting the external current account. Net capital and financial flows are inadequate to finance the current account deficit. The budget deficit was better than last year but not in line with annual target. Financing of the budget deficit is tilted towards the banking system, complicating liquidity and monetary management.

#### **YoY Inflation At 9.7 Per Cent**

Slowdown in exports and energy shortages could hamper GDP growth, which was projected at 3.8 per cent as compared with the budgetary target of 4.2 per cent. The growth in consumption appears to be declining due to inflation. Investment declined in last fiscal year and trend appears to continue this fiscal year. The year-on-year inflation in December 2011 was 9.7 per cent; but the full year inflation is expected to remain close to the target of 12 per cent. Inflation in second half of current fiscal year is expected to increase on account of adjustments in administered prices and exchange rate changes. SBP proposed that to reduce fiscal deficit measures to increase the tax revenues were required as tax to GDP ratio was less than 10 per cent in Pakistan. Overall expenditures were under control, but the untargeted subsidies were still a major burden on current and development expenditures, which are crucial for productive capacity and growth.

#### **Government Borrowing Rs. 648 Billion This Year**

The meeting was informed the government's borrowing from banks was Rs. 648 billion till December 15, 2011 as against Rs96 billion in the corresponding period last fiscal year. Even after excluding Rs. 391 billion settlement of circular debt, borrowings were high. The deterioration in external account balance and increased borrowing from banks squeezed the money market rupee liquidity increasing pressure on the money market overnight repo rate. SBP mentioned that the public debt to GDP ratio was 59 per cent of GDP and the total foreign debt has reached to \$61.5 billion by December 31, 2011. Secretary Finance said the government plans to issue Euro bonds of \$500 million by March this year whereas International Sukuk Bonds of \$500 million would also be launched later this year. He said the outstanding payment of \$800 million from UAE owned Etisalat would be received by third quarter of current fiscal year. He said the auctioning of three 3G licenses would help earn \$800 million. He said the total receivables of CSF from USA were \$2.5 billion and it did not include billing after May 2011.

---

### Remittances Rise 19.54pc to \$6.32bn in First Half

Overseas Pakistani workers have sent \$6.325 billion during the first half of 2011-12 fiscal years (FY12) as against \$5.291 billion in the corresponding half of last fiscal year, showing 19.54 percent growth. The monthly average remittances for the July-December 2011 period comes out to \$1.054 billion as compared to \$881.91 million during the same corresponding period of the last year, registering an increase of 19.54 percent. An amount of \$1.085 billion was sent home by overseas Pakistanis in December 2011, up 25.75 percent, when compared with \$863.13 million received in the same month of 2010. The SBP said that the remittances received from all countries of the world showed growth during the first half of current fiscal year. The inflow of remittances in July-December, 2011 from Saudi Arabia, UAE, USA, UK, GCC countries (including Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman) and EU countries amounted to \$1,661.89 million, \$1,412.92 million, \$1,150.24 million, \$726.35 million, \$721.19 million, and \$189.14 million respectively as compared with the inflow of \$1,143.82 million, \$1,255.65 million, \$997.68 million, \$577.17 million, \$626.29 million and \$172.10 million respectively in July-December 2010. Remittances received from Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Japan and other countries during the first half of current fiscal year (July-December 2011) amounted to \$463.61 million as against \$518.69 million received in the first half of last fiscal year. In December 2011, the inflow of remittances from Saudi Arabia, UAE, USA, UK, GCC countries (including Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman) and EU countries amounted to \$297.53 million, \$245.67 million, \$175.12 million, \$132.05 million, \$121.15 million and \$28.88 million respectively as compared with the inflow of \$208.06 million, \$210.33 million, \$156.36 million, \$81.08 million, \$95.99 million and \$24.53 million respectively in December, 2010. Remittances received from Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Japan and other countries during December 2011 amounted to \$84.95 million as against \$86.76 million received in the same month of last year.

The News - January 11, 2012

---

### Government Eyes More Than \$12bn Remittances by FY End

The country has received an average of \$1.054 billion per month so far during the first six months of the current financial year (2011-2012), as workers' remittances from abroad. If this healthy trend continues during the remaining half of the current financial year then the target of \$12 billion would certainly be surpassed. The Spokesman said that the amount of remittances sent home by Pakistani's living abroad crossed the 'billion dollar' mark yet again during the month of December 2011. Last month, overseas Pakistanis sent home \$ 1.085 billion, providing a vital boost to the economy. In the comparison, the amount of remittances received during December 2010 was lower by a significant 25.75 percent; however the monthly average of workers' remittances has remained above the \$1 billion mark since March, 2011. The \$1.085 billion that arrived last month maintained the momentum that has been built up since March 2011. The remittances made up a sizeable portion of the GDP of Pakistan. It is one of the major components of non-debt-creating inflows that increase consumption liquidity in our economy. Remittances also impact the health of the Current Account of the Balance of Payments; they build the country's foreign exchange reserves and thereby lend stability to the Exchange Rate. In addition, he said foreign exchange coming in as remittances is viewed with a more positive eye in comparison to funds being lent from International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Remittances contribute to our economic sovereignty since this source of foreign exchange is not linked with strings or conditionality and is not in the form of loans. The high inflow of remittances, he said owes itself to some important policy measures taken by the government.

The foremost in this regard is the 'Pakistan Remittances Initiative' (PRI), which was designed to remove barriers to the flow of remittances and improve access to banking facilities to overseas Pakistanis and their families. The second major factor, he said was the increase in the amount of

remittances is the increasing number of Pakistanis going abroad for work. According to the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment, there has been significant increase in emigration during the last four years. Predominantly, this increase of Pakistanis is in countries like Oman, Qatar, Lebanon, Jordan, Brunei, Bahrain, Japan, Sweden, and UAE. If we analyze the country-wise data of workers' remittances given by the State Bank of Pakistan, the largest chunk comes from the Middle East. The shares of Saudi Arabia, UAE, and other GCC countries add up to more than 60 percent of the total workers' remittances being sent to Pakistan. It is an important consideration that needs to be kept in mind by policy and decision-makers. To attract and facilitate Pakistanis living in Europe, East and Southeast Asia the government has taken a number of steps to enhance the flow of remittances through official channels. In this regard, Formulation of Exchange Companies authorized to deal in Foreign Currency notes, postal notes, money orders and travelers' cheques. At present, twelve Exchange Companies have commenced operations. Similarly, the Establishment of centralized Home Remittances Cell has been introduced in 5 major banks namely HBL, NBP, UBL, MCB and ABL. The Cell reduces the transmission time of remittances, he remarked. The Spokesman Finance Ministry said that SBP has also taken steps to control remittances through undocumented channels. In the current economic scenario, workers' remittances provide the much required support to our economy as a whole. The evidence of that is the turning of the Current Account deficit into a surplus during the month of December 2011.

**Daily Times - January 24, 2012**

---

### **Country to Pay Back \$1.2bn of IMF in March, June**

Pakistan is to retire first tranche of \$1.2 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) in two installments, \$700 million in March and \$500 million in June 2012. Earlier, Pakistan had agreed to pay back \$1.2 billion IMF loan by February, however, which change in repayment schedule, now Pakistan would be paying back IMF authorities \$700 million in March and \$500 million in June 2012, added the official. The official informed disbursement of \$2.5 billion arrears of Coalition Support Fund from United States would depend on the outcome of the Joint Session of Pakistan's parliament, which is convened in first week of February to set new dimension to bilateral relations. The official informed that Pakistan to auction four licenses of 3-G and 4-G to telecommunication companies soon and an advertisement has been issued in newspapers to seek expression of interest. The official said that with completion of auction of these licenses Pakistan is expecting \$800 million in March 2012. Official informed that transfer of properties to Etisalat have completed and a crucial meeting between Pakistani and Etisalat officials to ensure release of \$800 million PTCL privatization arrears. Ministry of Finance has released Rs. 4 billion to Higher Education Commission to carry out its planned activities. Similarly, Ministry of Finance has also released Rs. 3 billion to Rs. 4 billion for Thar Coal project to complete its basic infrastructure.

**Daily Times - January 25, 2012**

---

## **Government Policies**

### **The Challenge of Real Change**

For the first time in half a century the idea of systemic change is beginning to grip the popular imagination in many countries of the third world stretching from Africa, South Asia, South East Asia and Latin America. The recent Arab spring in the Middle East has pitted mass movements against entrenched dictatorships. Two features define this widespread aspiration for change: first, replacing authoritarian as well as elite-based democratic systems with a participatory form of democracy. The aim for example in a number of South Asian countries engaged in building democracy is a decentralized institutional structure that systematically involves

communities in governance decisions. Second, a process of economic growth that addresses the structural basis of mass poverty and inequality and which gives opportunities to all of the people; rather than a few for economic and social advancement. The first feature is associated with reforms, the second with new concepts of inclusive growth and broadening traditional human development indices to include economic and social opportunities. In Pakistan, too, the fragrance of a new spring is in the air. There is an emerging consensus across various strata of the population against dictatorship and for democracy. At the same time there is a demand that democracy must deliver in terms of good governance, provision of basic services and overcoming mass poverty. It is in this context that Imran Khan's slogan of "change" acquires its potential for popularity as well as the danger that it may merely reproduce the status quo. It may be helpful therefore to articulate the meaning of change in the case of Pakistan. Current political discourse regards the elimination of official corruption through honest leadership as the defining feature of change. Yet, it can be argued that removing corruption in the upper echelons of government is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for real change. Research in the New Institutional Economics over the last two decades shows that undeveloped economies such as Pakistan have an institutional structure within which rent-seeking by the ruling elites is endemic.

Corruption though morally reprehensible is nevertheless only one form of rent generation for the elite. Other forms of rent that have prevailed in various stages of Pakistan's history, though morally acceptable in this society are equally important in keeping the country undeveloped. These include the provision of evacuee property by the state to preferred individuals in the 1950s; commercial licenses; cheap credit, overvalued exchange rate, subsidies and import protection to entrepreneurs in the 1960s and 1970s; continued huge perks to the military and bureaucratic elites in terms of land grants, cheap housing, high value services in clubs at low prices, expensive vehicles and fuel at government expense, lucrative appointments in state owned loss making firms, and the facilitation of commercial enterprises such as housing schemes in which the elite have equity stakes. Rent is generated through an institutional structure that restricts competition to the elite and allows selection based on nepotism. By constraining competition, such an institutional structure results in low efficiency, low productivity and lack of innovation — thereby precluding sustained high growth. A rent-based institutional structure is located in a particular limited access social order. This social order is a combination of the elite based economy and electoral process, an associated backward educational system, and a supportive dominant military, bureaucratic, and ideological apparatus. By contrast, an open access social order is characterized by an economy with a high degree of competition, efficiency; selection based on merit, innovation and hence sustained economic growth with poverty reduction. The challenge of change is to bring about a structural transformation of the institutional framework so that both the economy and the polity can function for the people and by the people.

**The Express Tribune - January 30, 2012**

---

## ELECTION WATCH

### ECP & Election Related Updates

#### ECP to Start SMS Vote Registration Checking Service

Eligible voters are set to have the facility to check their names in the electoral rolls by just sending their Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC) number through mobile Short Messaging Services (SMS). The service will help the general public to check the status of their vote conveniently anytime and from anywhere from across Pakistan. The service will be started in February immediately after the completion of Preliminary Electoral Rolls (PER). The people will be able to verify their vote registration and particulars in the voter's lists through SMS by paying just Rs. 2 per SMS to ECP. It may be mentioned here that the people who opt to verify their names in the voters list through Nadra will have to pay Rs. 10 plus tax for each SMS. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) have already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the telecom sector. A sender will send his CNIC number to a short code and will subsequently receive a message in Urdu. It will confirm registration of voter as well as location (electoral area) where voter is registered along with serial number of voter in electoral rolls. He said after the introduction of the new service, it would be the responsibility of every eligible voter to make sure that his/her vote had been registered and furthermore to report any discrepancy to the ECP. The ECP will set up more than 55,000 display centers countrywide possibly by second or third week of January, where PERs will be physically displayed but introduction of SMS service is expected to spike genuine public interest in electoral process. According to Secretary ECP Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, the SMS service will be a great convenience to the citizens, enabling them to check their vote status through e-governance using state-of-the-art technologies for the first time in the world. The secretary also appreciated the cooperation offered by Ufone, Warid and Telenor in this effort leading towards free and fair elections in the country. All the stakeholders, especially the political parties, have appreciated this facility and endorsed the efforts of ECP for ensuring credible elections in the country, he said.

The News - January 05, 2012

#### General Elections in October, Decides PPP

So, this is the elections year. Faced with innumerable political and legal challenges, the top leadership of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in a major political move opened a new debate by announcing Senate elections in mid-February besides holding general elections in October this year instead of 2013, under an interim government. This was decided at the PPP's core committee meeting jointly chaired by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani. The meeting discussed holding of the Senate and general elections ahead of schedule per the constitutional provisions and the move was endorsed by all participants. Though the government did not make an official statement in this regard, in case of early elections, the assemblies would not complete their constitutional tenure. The only time the assemblies completed their tenure (2002-2007) was under former president General Pervez Musharraf. As the government was being criticized for its failure to handle all issues and a trail of alleged corruption hounding it, the political parties, particularly the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), had suggested early elections. While the PML-N demanded the government immediately step down, the PPP's move to hold early elections is a political strategy to engage other forces and buy more time for it to stay in government. Per the schedule, 50 percent of the senators would retire on March 12 and their successors would take oath on March 13. However, the PPP core committee meeting was told that under the

constitutional provisions, the Senate elections could be held early. The committee also favored holding of general elections ahead of schedule. However, the source said the meeting agreed that it was the right of the PPP to present a poor-friendly budget in the month of June.

The prime minister told the meeting that the coalition partners had also suggested holding early elections under a caretaker setup and the Salim Saifullah-formula may be adopted in this regard. Under the Salim Saifullah-formula, the prime minister would be asked to propose three names to the leader of the opposition for the slot of caretaker prime minister. Some hard-line PPP leaders opposed the idea of caretaker setup and asserted that PPP-led government should hold general polls. However, the president supported Gilani's idea of caretaker government. The PPP would hold negotiations with all political parties on caretaker set up and it may formally announce general elections in April this year. "After presenting budget 2012, the caretakers might be handed over the affairs of the government," added the source. When contacted, Khurshid Shah told Pakistan Today that the PPP was ready for general elections and the electoral lists were also ready. The PPP is also in a defiance mood as it's not ready to give in. With its top leaders publicly criticizing, what they call the Supreme Court's biased and selective slant towards their party and leadership, the ruling party is all set for a confrontation with the judiciary as it keeps mocking the apex court decisions inside and outside parliament. In a clear show of defiance towards the apex court's verdict on the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) and the show cause notices served on the party men for "ridiculing" the judiciary, the core committee of the PPP on Thursday endorsed the government's decision to not write a letter to the Swiss authorities for reopening of the cases against the president, who, the legal wizards believed, enjoyed immunity under the constitution. The Supreme Court had set January 10 as last date for the implementation of its verdict on the NRO with a warning that this time action would be taken in case of non-compliance.

A source told Pakistan Today that the meeting noted that the federation had already implemented the NRO verdict and since the president enjoyed immunity under the constitution, the government should not write any letter to the Swiss authorities. Moreover, the committee members also decided in principle that the federation's response in the memo case should be taken as of the president's reply and there was no need for the president to respond to the memo commission. During deliberation on the contempt notices issued to party leaders by the apex court, the core committee decided that freedom of expression was basic human right of every citizen. "The members resolved that since the court verdicts are always a public property and everyone has a right to criticize them. The PPP leaders and workers had rendered unparalleled sacrifices for independence of judiciary; selective justice towards the PPP-led coalition government had no logic.

President's spokesman Farhatullah Babar said political and economic situation was discussed during the meeting. The meeting hailed the cabinet to support a private member's bill that seeks to make it mandatory for all the public servants drawing their salary from the public exchequer to declare and make public details of their assets in the same manner as parliamentarians do. The meeting noted that in the past such initiatives were thwarted on flimsy grounds and decided to push through the proposed legislation with vigor and political determination. Babar said the meeting rejected the proposal mooted by some political circles for the setting up of military courts as undemocratic, uncalled for and undermining the civil and democratic institutions. The meeting welcomed the prime minister's announcement to lift ban on government jobs. Noting that the announcement was awaiting formalization, the meeting called upon the government to urgently issue appropriate notification to this effect so that the doors for recruitment in government departments were opened. The prime minister briefed the meeting on gas, electricity, sugar and fertilizer's situation in the country. Discussing the issue of gas, the prime minister said the government was giving top priority to domestic consumers and there will be no interruption to the domestic consumers. He said gas supplies to industry, cement, fertilizer and thermal power sectors would remain suspended during the current month due to expected increase in demand and consumption by the domestic sector. The prime

minister said cabinet committee had been directed to introduce reforms in the energy sector as early as possible and to take necessary steps in order to reduce system losses by gas companies.

Briefing about the economic state of affairs, the prime minister said the government’s efforts to broaden tax base had registered a significant success. He said the austerity measures adopted by the government had also yielded positive results. The measures to curtail budgetary expenditures had also met successes. He said that inflation had come down during the first six months of the current fiscal year as was witnessed by the downward trend in the Consumer Price Index and sensitive price index. The meeting decided to mobilize people and to hold rallies and public meetings at the divisional levels throughout the country which would be addressed by the senior leadership of the party including the prime minister. It also asked PPP KPK chapter President Senator Sardar Ali to also prepare for a public rally in the Tribal Areas, the first of its kind by the PPP after the Political Parties Order was extended to the Tribal Areas by President Asif Ali Zardari in August 2011. Babar said the meeting decided to hold dialogue with all political parties and leaders for strengthening democracy in the country and to take the country out of myriad of problems. Interior Minister Rehman Malik also briefed the meeting on prevailing law and order. Babar said as a part of consultative process to take coalition partners on board on the issue of new provinces, the president, soon after this meeting, would hold a meeting with ANP chief Asfandyar Wali Khan. The current political situation and coalition matters were discussed during the meeting.

Pakistan Today – January 06, 2012

**PPP, PML-N to Gain Most Seats in Senate Polls**

The following table depicts the complete picture of the possible scenario of the next Senate elections:

No.	Party Name	Present seats	To retire in March 2012	Reduced strength in March 2012	Expected seats in next elections (without seat adjustment)	Expected party position after
1.	PPP	27	05	22	20	42
2.	PML-Q	21	20	01	07	08
3.	ANP	06	01	05	05	10
4.	MQM	06	03	03	03	06
5.	BNP-A	03	01	02	01	03
6.	PML-F	01	01	zero	01	01
7.	Independent	11	04	07	06	13
8.	PML-N	07	01	06	07	13
9.	JULF	10	07	03	04	07
10.	Jl	03	03	zero	zero	zero
11.	PkMAP	01	01	zero	zero	zero
12.	NP	02	01	01	zero	01
13.	JWP	01	01	zero	zero	zero
14.	PPP-S	01	01	zero	zero	zero
15.	Total	100	50	50	54	104

Note: One member each from all four provinces will be elected on minorities reserved seats as a result of 189th amendment (total membership of Senate to become 104)

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the Awami National Party, ruling the Punjab and KP provinces, also are set to gain significantly but the representation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) in the new Senate is expected to remain unchanged. Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), which is considered to be the most organized religio-political party in the country, will be the

only mainstream party which will lose complete representation in both the houses of the parliament — the National Assembly and the Senate — because it had boycotted the 2008 general election. The calculations show that if all members vote strictly for candidates of their parties and no seat adjustments are made, the PPP will become the single largest party in the upper house for the first time in the country's parliamentary history. The PPP is expected to improve its strength from existing 27 to 42 senators. Only five of its 27 senators will retire in March, whereas the party is set to win 20 of the 54 seats for which elections will be held, thanks to its majority in Sindh Assembly and better position in the Punjab and Balochistan assemblies.

At present, the PML-N has seven senators and only Ishaq Dar will be retiring in March. However, due to its majority in the Punjab Assembly, it is expected to win another seven seats and its total membership in the upper house will become 13. The PML-Q will be the biggest loser in the elections as 20 of its 21 senators will be retiring in March. Party president Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain will be the sole representative of the party in the upper house. But the PML-Q is expected to get a maximum of seven seats in the next elections — thus PML-Q's strength is expected to be reduced to just eight from the existing 21. The ANP is expected to improve its position in the Senate. At present it has six senators and only Ilyas Ahmed Bilour is about to retire in March. However, the party is expected to secure five seats in the next elections and thus its representation is expected to increase to 10. The Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F) of Maulana Fazlur Rehman is also set to lose its position in the upper house. Of its 10 senators, seven are retiring in March and given the party position in the provincial assemblies, it is expected to get a maximum of four seats. Therefore, the JUI-F's strength will be reduced to seven. Besides the JI, the other parties which are expected to lose complete representation in the Senate are Pakhtunkhwa Mili Awami Party (PkMAP), Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) and PPP-Sherpao.

The present Senate comprises 100 members but after the next elections its strength will become 104 because under the 18th Constitution Amendment, the provincial assemblies will send one minority member each to the upper house. According to Article 59 of the constitution, the Senate comprises 104 members — 23 each from the four federating units, eight from Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata), and four from Islamabad. The 23 seats allocated to a province comprise 14 general seats, four reserved for women, four for technocrats and one for minority member. The term of a senator is six years, but 50 per cent of the total members retire after every three years and elections are held for new senators. Elections to fill the seats allocated to each province are held in accordance with the "system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote". The Fata senators are elected by the members of the National Assembly from the area whereas the four senators on the reserved seats from Islamabad are elected by the members of the National Assembly. Therefore, the Senate elections always depend on the party positions in the four provincial assemblies and the National Assembly. The new senators are required to take oath on March 12.

**Dawn - January 06, 2012**

---

#### **Four Minority Senators to Join Senate after Polls**

After four minority senators are elected for the first time in the next Senate elections, a simultaneous lucky draw will be held to pick out the two who will retire in three years and the other two who will continue their six years term. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would organize secret draws for categorizing the four non-Muslim legislators, one from each federating unit to be elected by the respective provincial assembly. With the addition of the minorities, the Senate's total membership would stand at 104 against the present 100. The minority members are being elected for the first time after they got allocation of the reserved seats under 18th Constitutional Amendment adopted in 2010. The PPP, having majority and its own governments in Sindh and Balochistan, would succeed to win two reserved seats from

those provinces. In the Punjab, the PML-N enjoys majority and would bring its nominee on the sole reserved seat for a minority person as the election for one member would be held on single constituency basis, like other provinces. There would be PPP-ANP bargain in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa for third and between PPP and PML-Q in Sindh to add more on the reserved seats. The election is due on 54 seats of 104-member House as 50 senators are completing their stipulated time-frame of six years in March whereas four seats for minorities have been added under the 18th Amendment for the first time. The polls are to be held on seven general, two technocrat, two women and one non-Muslim seat from each province, four Fata, one general and one technocrat seat from Islamabad.

**The News - January 07, 2012**

---

### **Senate Elections on March 2**

The Election Commission announced that Senate elections would be held on March 2. The ruling Pakistan People's Party is set to win majority seats in the upper house for the first time in the country's parliamentary history. The elections for half of the seats, in addition to the four reserved for minorities under the 18th Amendment, will take the number of senators from 100 to 104, with the PPP having the prospect of securing over 40 seats. According to the ECP schedule, the candidates can file nomination papers with returning officers on Feb 13 and 14. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be carried out on Feb 16 and 17. Appeals against rejection or acceptance of nomination papers can be filed with the ECP secretary on Feb 20 and 21. The appeals will be decided on Feb 22 and 23. Feb 24 has been set as the last date for withdrawal of candidature and the final list of contesting candidates will be published the same day. The members of each provincial assembly will elect seven senators for general seats and two each for women's seats and seats reserved for technocrats, including ulema, and one member from seats reserved for non-Muslims. Members of the National Assembly will elect one member against general seat and the other against the seat reserved for technocrats from the federal capital. Members of the National Assembly from Fata will elect four members against general seats. The polling will take place from 9am to 4pm simultaneously in the Parliament House building, Islamabad, and the four provincial assemblies.

If all members vote strictly for candidates of their parties and no seat adjustments are made, the PPP will become the single largest party in the upper house. It is expected to improve its strength from 27 to 42 senators. Only five of its 27 senators will retire in March, whereas the party is set to win 20 of the 54 seats for which elections will be held, thanks to its majority in Sindh Assembly and a comfortable position in the Punjab and Balochistan assemblies. However, due to its majority in the Punjab Assembly, it is expected to win another seven seats to improve its strength to 13. The PML-Q will be the biggest loser as 20 of its 21 senators will be retiring in March. The party's president, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, will be its sole senator not to retire. But the party is expected to get a maximum of seven seats. This will reduce PML-Q's strength to just eight from 21. The Awami National Party has six senators and only one of its members is due to retire in March. However, the party is expected to secure five seats, raising its representation to 10. The Muttahida Qaumi Movement is likely to retain its current position. It has six senators, three of whom will retire in March. But the party is in a position to win back three. The Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-F is set to lose its position. Seven of its 10 senators are retiring in March and given the party position in the provincial assemblies, it is expected to get not more than four seats. Thus its representation will be down altogether to seven. The parties which are expected to lose representation altogether in the Senate are Jamaat-i-Islami, Pakhtunkhwa Mili Awami Party, Jamboori Watan Party and PPP-Sherpao.

**Dawn - January 13, 2012**

---

**Completion of Voters' Lists: SC Rejects ECP Request for Extension in Deadline**

The Supreme Court rejected the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP's) plea to extend the deadline for finalizing the electoral lists and directed it to use all the resources to complete the task till February 23. The court also noted that the ECP talked about transparency, but its secretary was on two years' contract and reemployed after his retirement. The court asked why the staff already working in the commission had been promoted to the post. The court also asked how the commission would work independently in the presence of its contractual secretary. A four-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, expressed dissatisfaction over the report submitted by Joint Secretary Sher Afgan, saying the notice for updating the electoral lists was issued in 2009 on the petition of Benazir Bhutto, but still the task had not been completed. The ECP official stated that it was not possible for the commission to meet the deadline, and the official tried to shift the responsibility of delay on the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). Sher Afgan said that after receiving the lists from NADRA, the ECP would proceed further and display them at 55,000 registration centres set up across the country. The chief justice told the joint secretary that the court had passed an order, "which is of binding nature". The official forbade giving such an excuse in the future that shows that the ECP would not be able to finish the task in time. NADRA General Manager Syed Muzffar Ali said the ECP had earlier told them that 3 to 4 million forms would be given, but now the ECP had given them 13 million forms. On the issue of by-elections that were held after the passage of the 18th Amendment, the attorney general of Pakistan submitted the copy of a bill and told the court that an amendment bill regarding the matter would be tabled before parliament.

Daily Times - January 13, 2012

---

**Overseas Pakistanis May Win Postal Voting Right**

Overseas Pakistanis will now be allowed to cast their vote in the upcoming parliamentary elections through postal ballots. The decision will now approach the ministry of law to seek necessary amendments in the relevant election laws. All overseas Pakistanis above 18 years of age, having national identity cards for overseas Pakistanis would be eligible to cast their votes for the candidates in their native constituencies for next election. Those having dual nationalities will also be eligible to exercise their right to franchise in the next elections. According to the official, the current law only bars dual nationality holders from contesting polls but it does not stop them from voting. Various proposals were discussed during recent meetings of the commission regarding the procedure for polling of these voters but the most viable option we have found so far is voting through postal ballots. The right to vote for overseas Pakistanis had been a long-standing demand of different political parties — once implemented, this would have significant impact on the election results in constituencies from where a large number of Pakistanis have migrated to other countries. To take political parties on board, the commission called a meeting of all stakeholders including political parties, civil society and the media. The key points on the agenda of the meeting include the following:

**Permanent Polling Stations:** The commission will apprise the participants about its decision to allocate permanent polling stations, a list of which would be displayed on their website for public information.

**LG Guidelines:** Among other items, the commission will ask participants to give their suggestions for local bodies which are virtually redundant since the 2002 district government ordinance lapsed in 2009.

**Election Symbols:** The commission is now short of election symbols due to the registration of many new parties and deletion of 'derogatory' symbols from its list. The meeting would consult participants on the newly-proposed symbols.

**Law Enforcing Agencies under DRO:** The commission has also decided that in the next elections district election security committees would be established in every district which would be headed by the district returning officer. He would either be an employee of the ECP or a government servant of grade 19. This according to the ECP would minimize the chances of misuse of local police by influential candidates.

**Code of Conduct and Political Finance:** Preparation of a code of conduct for political parties, candidates, media and other stakeholders will be deliberated in the meeting. The meeting will also discuss different options to control or at least regulate election expenses.

**The Express Tribune - January 18, 2012**

---

### **NADRA Likely To Miss ECP Deadline**

Although, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has closed NADRA Resource Centers (NRC) for the general public to complete voters' lists but it may fail to comply with the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) deadline of handing over the final list 21 days before February 23. According to details, the Supreme Court (SC) had ordered the ECP to complete the voters' list before February 23 on which the ECP had asked NADRA to hand over the final list 21 days before the given deadline. NADRA had utilized all of its resources and manpower to complete the task and asked the ECP that the final list would be handed over on February 5 but the ECP needed the final list until January 31 for publication. Earlier, the ECP requested the SC for an extension in deadline but the CJP turned down the request. Due to closure of NRCs, citizens were facing immense difficulties in getting new CNICs. NADRA had displayed banners at gates of all NRCs stating that the process of issuance of new CNICs was suspended for an indefinite time to meet the deadline. But the authority moved some mobile NRCs to city centers but failed to facilitate NRCs with mobile facilities. People had started approaching NRCs where the facility of mobile NADRA centers was available. According to law, the ECP had to publish the final voters' list at public places 21 days before, as if anyone's name could not be included due to some errors, he or she could be facilitated.

**Pakistan Today – January 19, 2012**

---

### **Public Servants': The True Face of Parliamentarians' Take-Home Figures**

Pakistani parliamentarians are the lowest paid in the region, according to the speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Fehmida Mirza, who made the claim to counter accusations that members were drawing hefty amounts from the national exchequer. This may be true – but perhaps not if one scrutinizes the perks. A press statement issued by the National Assembly secretariat stated that the monthly salary of Rs. 62,280 for MNAs – including allowances – was low compared to the earnings of legislators in the region and beyond. The statement cited the Members of Parliament (Salaries & Allowances) Act 1974, and said that the monthly remuneration of MNAs is made up of: salary of Rs. 23,803; ad-hoc allowance of Rs. 11,903; office maintenance allowance Rs. 8,000; telephone allowance of Rs. 10,000; sumptuary allowance Rs. 5,000; and ad-hoc relief allowance of Rs. 3,571. In addition, the MPs get Rs. 3,750 for attending sessions and committee meetings. However, there are several entitlements which were not mentioned in the National Assembly secretariat's clarification. Amenities to members under the 1974 Act says that, in addition to salary and allowances as a member, the chairmen of

standing committees are entitled to an additional honorarium of Rs. 12,700 per month and a staff car with petrol up to 360 liters per month. Four staff members are also thrown into the package. At present, the National Assembly has 42 standing committees and the number of members for each standing committee varies from 15 to 20. In addition, there are six special committees, which have a representation of 151 MPs. Theoretically, every single MP of a house of 342 in the National Assembly, irrespective of their party affiliations, is a member of some standing committee and is entitled to additional perks, privileges and allowances. There is also a clause for absence from sitting, which reads: “notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, a member who, without leave of the House, remains absent for three consecutive days of its sittings, shall not be entitled to receive any daily allowance or conveyance allowances in respect of the days of such absence.” However, it appears this is not always enforced.

### **Travel**

Under the amended 1974 Act, every member has been allowed the following facilities:

Travel vouchers of Rs. 150,000 per year, cash of Rs. 90,000 per year in lieu of travel vouchers and fifteen business class open return air tickets. During committee meetings they also receive a business class fare and other perks.

### **Medical**

Members are entitled to medical benefits for themselves and their families. Article 16 of the Warrant of Precedence reads: “The salaries, allowances and privileges of Members shall automatically be increased by the Federal Government (by notification in the official Gazette) in proportion to the increase in the emoluments of the civil servants.”

### **Speaker**

For the speaker: a salary of Rs. 46,000 per month, ad hoc relief of Rs. 6,000 per month, sumptuary allowance of Rs. 6,000 per month and a dearness allowance of Rs. 6,900 month. He or she is entitled to the use of official transport and is allotted an official residence whose monthly rent should not exceed Rs. 68,750 per month. His/her house can be furnished up to Rs. 100,000 at government expense. The deputy speaker draws a salary of Rs. 42,500 per month, ad hoc relief of Rs. 6,000 per month, sumptuary allowance of Rs. 6,000 per month and a dearness allowance of Rs. 6,900 per month. He/she is entitled to the use of official transport and to have an official residence with a monthly rent not exceeding Rs. 68,750 per month. An amount not exceeding Rs. 100,000 may also be spent from the state exchequer to furnish his house.

### **Development Funds**

In addition to the salary and allowances, the government allocated Rs. 33 billion in the federal budget for 2011-12 for the People’s Works Program, which is a scheme of small infrastructure projects undertaken on the recommendations of parliamentarians. Allegations of kickbacks in the implementation of such schemes are rampant. Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani has reportedly doled out Rs. 22.4 billion or 68% of the annual budget earmarked for development schemes for the entire fiscal year in the first five months (July 2011-November 2011).

**The Express Tribune - January 23rd, 2012**

---

### **Secret Election Schedule Talks between PPP, PML-N Stall**

Secret talks between the government and the main opposition party to finalize the schedule for fresh parliamentary elections later this year have stalled over whether the key announcement

should be made before or after the budget, which is due in June. Interlocutors from the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) are insisting that the announcement must be made after the incumbent government presents what they said would be an incentive-laden budget, with polls to be held in October. Countering that position, negotiators representing the opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) are pushing the embattled administration to call snap elections in March immediately after polls for half of the Senate seats. Both sides, however, were confident that they could overcome the differences on the most important point to pave the way for a smooth run-up to the elections, which are being seen as a test case for the country's politicians to save the democratic system from what they fear are threats from a 'hidden force'. Top leaders from the two largest parties entered late last year into what they called 'conciliatory' negotiations after signs appeared that the powerful military might be supporting groups hostile to both of them. Their main fear was what appeared to be an unprecedentedly rapid rise of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan as a 'third force' on the country's political horizon which was dominated by the PPP and PML-N in the 1990s. It was reported earlier in the month that both sides are holding behind-the-scene negotiations through interlocutors appointed by President Asif Ali Zardari and PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif and they had agreed on four out of six points of what they called a smooth democratic transition to elections. According to media reports, Gilani will soon be holding direct interaction with Nawaz Sharif to seal the deal once a roadmap is prepared by negotiators. A spokesperson for the premier, however, denied this. But the premier himself dropped a strong hint on what experts believed was going to be a pro-people budget, containing many concessions for the 'downtrodden masses' who have suffered at the hands of multiple crises since the PPP took over back in 2008. He, however, said his party believed the Zardari-Gilani administration won't survive the current standoff with the judiciary and the military in the form of contempt case against the premier and Memogate scandal.

**The Express Tribune - January 23, 2012**

---

### **Electoral Matters**

The number of rows among institutions and government bodies is growing by the day. Each of them needs to work together if we are to have a state that is able to function smoothly and meet the essential needs of its people. Instead, confrontation is growing and adding to the complexities and risks we face even in going about what should be routine matters to be settled without discord. In the latest such instance, the Election Commission of Pakistan, the entity central to the conduct of free, transparent polls in the country, has told a four-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, that its recent orders staying by-polls on existing lists and stating they be held only after lists were updated and verified were unconstitutional, as the Constitution stated that polls needed to be held within 60 days of a seat falling vacant. The chief election commissioner and his staff also told the court that the key process of updating lists could not be completed by December last year on account of the floods, the law and order situation and other problems. The lists are now due to be completed by May this year, while the relevant petition in the case, tabled by Imran Khan also brings up other issues such as granting the right to vote to overseas Pakistanis. The ECP has stated that such an exercise, involving some eight million potential voters, would be an extremely costly one. It may not be so. The fact, however, is that many countries have given this right, including even Iraqis who vote for their candidates in their embassies abroad. The ECP has also stated that, for practical reasons, constituencies cannot be altered in terms of delimitation until the new rolls are complete. The arguments in the case raise a number of technical issues, with the SC suggesting that the way other countries organize matters needs to be studied. What we must also keep at the forefront of our thinking is the fact that the process of balloting is central to our democracy. It must therefore be fairly conducted, ideally by an autonomous EC. The lack of such

an entity in our country adds to our problems and inevitably raises doubts over the polling process and all that goes into this exercise.

**The News - January 26, 2012**

---

### **Sunni Tehrik Announces Conversion into Political Party**

Sunni Tehreek Chief Sarwat Ejaz Qadri Sunday announced that the party would now become a “political party” and commence its political activities from March 23 with a rally at the Minar-e-Pakistan, Lahore. While addressing the Pakistan Bachao Jan Nisaran-e-Mustafa (PBUH) conference organized by the Sunni Tehrik to mark the martyrdom of two of the outfit’s leaders targeted on the 12th of Rabiul Awwal 2006 at Nishtar Park. The ST Chief, who has been complaining about the trampling of the Tehreek’s rights by the government by not allowing the party to put up its posters in the city, vowed to besiege the Governor House if the murderers of party workers killed on Sunday were not arrested by Monday. He said suo moto action should not only be taken on memos but also on acts of terrorism. Earlier two activists of the Sunni Tehreek (ST), on their way to Nishtar Park to attend the Pakistan Bachao Jan Nisaran-e-Mustafa (PBUH) conference, were gunned down Sunday afternoon. Police said Saleem Qadri and Sohail Qadri were on their way to attend the rally when two men on a motorcycle opened fire on them and fled. On receiving information about the incident, a police van rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to hospital where they were pronounced dead. Police cordoned off the crime scene where they found empty shells of a 9mm pistol. Activists and leaders of the ST staged a protest at the Civil Hospital where the bodies of the deceased were taken and demanded the immediate arrest of the killers. Sohail Qadri was a resident of BP Factory Gali in Garden while Saleem Qadri lived in Baldia Town area. The funeral prayers of the deceased took place in Baldia Town.

**The News - January 30, 2012**

---

### **Only 48% of ECP’s Strategic Plan Implemented**

The Citizens Monitoring Report on State of Electoral Reforms in Pakistan released by Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT) says that only 48 per cent of the Election Commission of Pakistan’s Five-Year Strategic Plan has been implemented. As of December 31, 2011, the average progress made on 76 objectives under the ECP strategic plan that were scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2011, is assessed to be 36 per cent whereas this progress should have been 100 per cent, noted the report. “This is a not a satisfactory performance but one hopes that this citizens’ assessment will prove to be a shot in the arm and the efforts to achieve progress as per the strategic plan will be expedited.” In the first-of-its-kind report monitoring, the progress on state of electoral reforms in Pakistan, the report noted that the ECP deserves credit for preparing specific blue print and a road map for electoral reforms, with the consultation and input of political parties and civil society organizations of Pakistan, in the form of a five-year strategic plan. “While the ECP has the responsibility to implement the five-year strategic plan, it is the responsibility of the citizens to monitor the progress of implementation and raise questions where the progress is slow or stalled.” The report acknowledged that a full-time permanent Election Commission has come into being for the first time in the history of Pakistan with its four members appointed after bi-partisan consensus. The report also notes that the ECP has taken some landmark steps towards free and fair election in Pakistan such as initiating a legislation to declare Computerized National Identification Card (CNIC) a pre-requisite for registration as a voter and casting a vote; using NADRA database for new electoral rolls; addition of voters picture in the electoral rolls; studying the feasibility of using an Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and plans to establish a political finance wing in the ECP to check excessive use of money in elections.

Analyzing the progress, the report said that preparation of revised Computerized Electoral Rolls is only 75 per cent complete despite the expiry of the original deadline of December 31, 2011, fixed by the Election Commission. Efforts to improve the participation of marginalized sections of the society such as women, minorities and persons with disabilities have made only 12 per cent progress. Efforts for strengthening the participation of political parties and candidates have yielded only 20 per cent progress so far. Out of 76 objectives, which ECP was set to achieve by December 31, 2011, only 6 have been completely realized while work is in progress on the remaining 70. The ECP had prepared and unveiled the Five-Year Strategic Plan 2010-2014 on May 25, 2010. In the plan, a total of 129 objectives were listed under 15 strategic goals with deadline set for achieving each objective. Seventy-Six (76) objectives were scheduled to be achieved by December 31, 2011. The remaining 46 objectives are scheduled to be achieved after December 31, 2011 - some as late as December 2014. It is estimated that the implementation of the Strategic Plan will require R9 billion over a period of 5 years. It is learnt that only about 10 per cent of the required amount has so far been committed by foreign donors. The Citizens Monitoring Report has also listed key electoral issues, which will dominate the discourse on election and electoral reforms in Pakistan in the coming months. Electoral rolls and deadline of February 23, 2012 set by the Supreme Court for the completion of the electoral rolls will continue to capture the headlines; Appointment of the new chief election commissioner (CEC) by March 2012, consultative process for the formation of caretaker governments; date of the next parliamentary election; questions about the fairness of next general election in the presence of a partisan president and partisan provincial governors, and the term (2 or 5 years) of current members of the Election Commission are expected to be major issues of focus in the coming days, PILDAT observes.

**The News - January 31, 2012**

---

### **Option for Early Election Is Open, Says Gilani**

Amidst the chorus of calls for early elections, the government appears to have made its mind to go to the public for fresh mandate after Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani declared that option for early election is open. This was the second statement in the last two days when Gilani showed his readiness for the fresh general elections, earlier than the expiry of the tenure of the current democratic dispensation. As the prime minister showed his intension to hold earlier elections before the end of his government tenure, he, however reminded that any earlier elections would be held only after the announcement of federal budget, which is also being tabled in parliament in May contrary to the past traditions when federal budget was presented in June of every year. "All those political elements who want early elections can talk to me but after the budget session," the prime minister stated during a meeting with MNA Asim Nazir at the Prime Minister's House. Upon his return from Davos after attending the World Economic Forum the other day, Gilani also expressed similar views when he indicated that the government might go for the early elections after the budget. The statement of the prime minister on this occasion is believed to be acceptance of the opposition's demand, which has been lobbying hard for early polls in view of the perceived failure of the government to deliver during the last four years.

Though the country appears to be heading towards the early elections, political analysts believe that the PPP government would not let the opposition parties capitalize on its unpopularity, triggering from its failure to deliver any relief to masses. With budget tool in its hand, the PPP government would try to make some inroads in the masses by doling out relief as well as subsidies on various items to win back its lost popularity. If the government is sticking to the point that earlier elections are an option but only after budget then it is the clear sign that government would use budget as a tool to make up the losses it suffered on the popularity front. The wide-ranging thought in the political circles suggests that Gilani also discussed with Nazir

the development projects in his constituency, who congratulated the prime minister for his successful visit to Davos, and his interaction with businessmen of the world. He also appreciated the policy of the prime minister to take along the opposition and his efforts for strengthening of democracy in the country. Asim apprised Gilani about various on-going development schemes in his constituency. The prime minister approved the schemes of village electrification, roads network and construction of boundary walls for schools in his constituency.

Daily Times - January 31, 2012

---

### **PTI to Launch Membership Campaign**

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Monday announced that a membership campaign would be launched across the country from February 1 to March 23, to add 10 million more members to the party. PTI Additional Secretary General Saifullah Khan Niazi, while addressing the organizing committee at the party's central secretariat, said the campaign would be conducted by organizing tehsil-level workers' conventions, which would be addressed by the party chairman. Sharing the details of the proposed campaign, he said the dedicated and committed workers of the PTI would be mobilized to take the message of the party to every doorstep. They will go door-to-door to achieve the target. Set up membership camps will use all sorts of social, print and electronic media to attract the masses. Change is inevitable and the people of Pakistan are looking towards honest and capable leadership of Imran Khan. They are fed up with the rotten political system that could not lessen their miseries and want to bring an end to the looting spree and plundering of the national wealth. The tehsil-level conventions, he explained, would help establish a direct contact between the top leadership and the grassroots workers, and formulate a comprehensive policy on national issues in consultation with party workers. Niazi was optimistic that the objective of organizing the party at the union council level would be achieved within the given time. Party will appoint block-organizers to ensure implementation of "One booth, ten youth" policy of the chairman to thwart any possible rigging in the next elections and provide the voters a conducive atmosphere to elect their representatives in a free environment.

Daily Times - January 31, 2012

---

## REGIONAL POLITICS

### Pakistan's Foreign Relations

#### **Pakistan, Afghanistan Agree To Enhance Bilateral Trade to \$5 Billion By 2015**

Pakistan has assured Afghanistan of resolution of blockade of Afghan containers containing perishable items and fuel within next ten days, as both countries agreed at the two day joint economic commission meeting to enhance bilateral trade from \$2.5 billion to \$5 billion by 2015. Addressing a joint news conference, Finance Minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh along with his Afghan counterpart Hazrat Omar Zakhiwal said both sides agreed to hold JEC meetings on regular basis to address various issues that hamper promotion of bilateral trade and investment. The meeting of JEC was held after a gap of three years. The minister assured that problems faced by Afghan traders due to blockade of containers would be removed within the next 10 days. He said it was noted that there was huge bilateral trade potential which remains unutilized and it was decided to enhance bilateral trade to \$5 billion within next three years. As the Afghan side sought assistance in oil and gas exploration, power generation, construction and mining sectors, Pakistan offered machinery and equipment to Afghanistan. The state owned Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) will be helping Afghanistan to develop hydel power generation on Kabul River for export in the region. Similarly the national flagship Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) would help the neighboring country in oil and gas exploration while the two state owned gas utilities, SNGPL and SSGC will provide assistance for developing transmission network.

The minister said both sides agreed to establish a joint chamber of commerce and industry to identify areas for promoting bilateral trade and investment. It was agreed to explore possibility of entering into agreement for promotion of bilateral trade. It was also agreed that both sides would establish display centers at Kabul and Karachi for promotion of bilateral trade. Afghan Finance Minister Hazrat Omar Zakhiwal said both the countries have unfortunately not been able to utilize the immense bilateral trade potential, even though there is a political will of the leadership of both the countries in this regard. Seeking investment from Pakistan, he said investors from all over the world were coming to Afghanistan but Pakistani investors were shy due to some misperceptions, that they were not welcomed to the country. "Afghanistan will welcome Pakistani investment in exploration, hydel power, constructing and mineral sectors". He said there were many irritants in Afghan transit trade through Pakistan and if they were not removed they could cause a big impact on promoting bilateral trade. He suggested going beyond irritants to promote the access of people and trade. He said Afghanistan could be a "land bridge" for connecting South Asia and Central Asian which will benefit the people of the region. About irritants he said Pakistan has stopped transit of NATO containers which has also resulted in blockade of 700 Afghan containers having perishable items and fuel supplies. He stressed speedy resolution of the issue. Similarly he said misunderstanding on declaration of goods was causing delay in the release of transit consignments.

**Pakistan Today – January 18, 2012**