



NATIONAL Reconstruction Bureau (NRB) Chairman Daniyal Aziz and Dr Sayeda Sayedain Hameed, member of Indian Planning Commission, sign a declaration for establishment of forum of ministers of social development from Asia in Bhurban on Saturday.—APP

South Asian states vow to boost ties

By Our Staff Reporter

BHURBAN, May 27: Six South Asian countries, including Pakistan and India, have unanimously pledged to enhance cooperation in social development to optimise the effectiveness of their policies.

A resolution was passed on Saturday on the concluding session of a two-day Forum of Ministers of Social Development from Asia organised by the National Reconstruction Bureau in collaboration with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) and United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) here.

Other participating countries included Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Maldives. The meeting was the first meeting of the recently forum formed by Unesco. It is stated to be a non-decision making body as it only gives recommendations to the governments concerned.

The forum had decided to adopt the theme of public accountability as the principal focus for the forum during its first year. Pakistan is the chairman of the current forum while

India will chair its next session.

It decided reaffirm political will and determination in the member countries to promote development policies which take into account all human development dimensions and to fight against poverty.

Speaking at the first session of the final day of the forum, National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee Chairman Malik Allah Yar Khan, MNA, said that PAC had formed four sub-committees to deal with old cases because of the backlog of old cases of irregularities.

The Auditor-General of Pakistan urged the PAC chairman to concentrate on fresh cases of corruption instead of opening up cases that were decades old.

He stressed the need for empowering the PAC to take suo motu notice of malpractices affecting the public.

The NRB Chairman Daniyal Aziz defended the local government system and said there was nothing wrong with the system, adding that its implementation was problematic.

He said the PAC had sent audit reports of district governments to the provinces three years ago but they had not yet been sent to the district accounts committees so that a timely action could be taken up against people responsible for irregularities.

He claimed that among the member countries, Pakistan had the distinction of having gotten rid of 150-year-old British colonial laws.

He said the process of devolution of power had begun but it would take time to replace the centuries old system in letter and spirit.

"It is my personal experience that people have started talking about their rights even in backward areas, which was unthinkable only six years ago," he said.

Unesco's assistant director Pierre Sane, PAC Punjab Chairman Asif Saeed Minais, PAC Chairman Sindh Jam Madad Ali, Balochistan Minister of Local Government Maulana Hussain Ahmed Sharodi, India's Planning Commission Member Dr Syeda Saiyidain Hameed were among the participants.



BHURBAN: NRB Chairman Daniyal Aziz and member Planning Commission of India, Dr Syeda Sayedain Hameed sign the Bhurban Declaration for the establishment of "Forum of Ministers of Social Development from Asia".—Online

Work on PAC recommendations urged

BY FAZAL SHER

BHURBAN - Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Malik Allah Yar on Saturday stressed the need for immediate implementation of PAC's recommendations and proper monitoring mechanism to ensure effective accountability system in the country.

He stated this while speaking at the two days "Forum of Ministers of Social Development from Asia". Jointly organized by UNESCO, UNDP and National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB).

The chairman said that there is a need of continuity of PAC even in the absence of Assemblies to ensure timely clearance and adjustment of audit paras and sustained accountability system.

"The present committee during the last one and half year has

cleared seven thousand audit paras which a record", he added. Malik Allah Yar said that to make the PAC processing more transparent, it would be opened for media in future.

He asserted that the PAC is now moving towards system-based audit to ensure proper accountability in government offices. The chairman also speaks about the functioning of the committee and presented various suggestions to make it more effective.

Auditor General of Pakistan Muhammad Younis Khan said the findings of the audit reports depends on the PAC'S functioning. He described that strength of the Auditor General depends on the legislative bodies that recommend actions against irregularities.

Daniyal Aziz, chairman NRB, while chairing a session on pub-

lic accountability vis-a-vis role of the district governments said that the local governments has vital role in the development of the country. He asked all the concern departments to play their due role to further strengthen the system to solve the public problems.

Chairman PAC Punjab chapter, Asif Saeed in his presentation said that the provincial PAC was coping with a large number of problems during the implementation of the committee recommendations.

He said media should play its role in this regard and keep an eye on performance of the PAC. "PAC deduct one third of pension from the retired or serving official's salaries who were found indulge in corruption", he added.

He further said that such forum would play important role in the

betterment of accountability processes therefore he added government need to arrange such types of forum in all provinces.

Chairman PAC Sindh chapter Jam Madad Ali Khan said that most of the bureaucrats and administrators were creating hurdles in their way and avoid to present their working paper before the committee.

At the end, they presented a declaration called 'Bhurban Declaration'.

Salient future of the declaration including efforts urged to enhance cooperation among the member countries in the field of social development and to institutionalize the forum of ministers on social development of Asia in order to increase consultations and exchange of experience to optimizing the effectiveness of social policies.

PAC asks for more powers at forum for Asian ministers

Muhammad Anis

BHURBAN: Chairman of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Malik Allah Yar Khan MNA wants more powers for PAC for the effective implementation of its decisions and directives by government departments.

"A monitoring mechanism is required for the directives of PAC to be implemented in letter and spirit on a timely basis," PAC chairman said while presiding over a session of 'Forum of Ministers of Social Development From Asia' here on Saturday. The two-day conference started on Friday and was jointly organized by UNESCO, UNDP and National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB).

The chairman said that PAC had asked the federal government for more financial assistance for the strengthening of its secretariat. "We need more finances and assistance from technical people to make our performance more effective," he said.

Malik Allah Yar observed that the on and off dissolution of assemblies in the past had effected the working of the federal government and provincial assemblies and a large number of decisions of PAC could not be implemented.

"It is important for assemblies to continue for the effective working of elected PAC," he said.

While responding to a question about the working of PAC, he said that there were certain drawbacks as the National Assembly elects the body and it has to work with rules of the assembly.

He said that in the past one and half years, PAC had disposed

Setting up of Asian network for social development okayed

Our correspondent

BHURBAN: The South Asian countries have agreed to create an Asian network of the sub regional networks of social development ministers with an objective to coordinate efforts for social development and speed up development activities.

It was announced at the end of the two-day 'Forum of Ministers of Social Development from Asia', which concluded here on Saturday. It was jointly organized by National Reconstruction (NRB), UNDP and UNESCO.

The meeting also elected with consensus NRB Chairman Daniyal Aziz as chairperson for a period of one year. The ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation among the participant countries in the field of social development and to institutionalise the forum of the ministers.

The development ministers from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Mongolia, who attended the two-day event, agreed on a strategy to identify actions for addressing issues related to the development process and remove constraints from the process in the region.

In their presentations, the participants highlighted the performance of various public development institutions at grass root level in their respective countries.

The forum also reviewed the state of Public Accountability in Pakistan. Former NRB chairman Lt. General (r) Tanvir Naqvi, in his concluding remarks, said that the implementation of laws is mandatory for the success of any system. "The laws are equal for everybody and nobody is above from law," he said.

He further said that only those laws should be made which are practical for implementation.

Naqvi was of the view that interests of individual civil servants are hurdles to the success of local bodies. "It was designed to shift rule of people by administration to rule of people by the elected representatives," he said.

Member NRB Naeemul Haq said in his presentation that accountability of local governments must be an integral part of the national accountability strategy. He said that to ensure good governance, a predetermined number of cases should be taken up on an annual basis at three tiers of local governments in three provinces.

off 7000 audits, out of which 2270 paras have been adjusted while those responsible for corruption have expired.

He said that none of the audit paras sent to PAC by Auditor General of Pakistan could not be taken up by the PAC. "We will

clear the backlog in one year as four sub-committees have been formed to expedite work," he said.

Chairman of PAC Punjab Asif Saeed said in his presentation that the provincial PAC was facing problems in getting the government departments to implement its directives. "It is the responsibility of the government to ensure implementation of PAC's directives," he said.

He said that PAC is the supreme legislative forum for accountability; therefore, it should get its due importance. He observed that the media should also play a key role by keeping an eye on performance of PAC, which could improve its performance.

He made a disclosure that the body has only one mechanism to recover embezzled amount, which is the deduction of one third of pension of salaries from retired or serving officials who are indulged in corruption according to PAC observations.

He said that the federal and all the provincial PACs should meet twice or thrice a year to discuss their problems and find out solutions.

Chairman of PAC Sindh Jam Madad Ali Khan complained that most of the bureaucrats and administration officials hesitate to appear before the committee to avoid answering to audit paras.

He said that PACs should be provided assistance from technical experts, who could review certain complicated audit reports. "Some immediate steps are required to strengthen accounts committees," he said.

The Nation

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2006

Accountability must for progress

FROM FAZAL SHER

BHURBAN - Improvement in political culture, government institutions and establishment of proper accountability mechanism was mandatory for the progress of the country, said NRB Chairman Daniyal Aziz here on Friday.

The NRB chairman was addressing the "Forum of Ministers of Social Development from Asia", jointly organized by NRB, UNESCO, UNDP and the government of Pakistan.

The main objective of the forum is to draw strategies and mechanisms for improvement of public accountability was attended by ministers and officials from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Mongolia who shared their domestic experiences about devolution, accountability and certain challenges they were facing in their respective countries.

The speakers were of the view

that public accountability had been a common challenge and the demands of people can be met through public accountability only.

The NRB chairman said the solution of public problems is possible in the presence of an appropriate public accountability and proper use of human resources. "Pakistan has initiated a large structural and administrative changes through which we could dismantle the old colonial administrative system.

The country suffered by the colonial administrative system but with the establishment of Local Government System in 2001 all the old systems had been changed.

"Governance had different meanings for different people but in Pakistan governance is making relationship between the state and the citizen," Daniyal said.

He said that after taking lead in initiating broad-based re-

forms, Pakistan had taken initiative to bring regional ministers at this forum to forge closer coordination for social sector development and introduce mechanisms for improving public accountability.

He said the forum will play a vital role to share experiences and work jointly to draw a roadmap for development for regional countries. "The institutions of auditing and accountability should develop coordination and laws should be introduced to facilitate it," he said.

The chairman said that to solve the problems of general public and achieve Millennium Development Goals, Asian countries should cooperate with each other and should take advantage from their experiences.

UNESCO Assistant Director General for Social and Human Sciences Pierre Sane said the forum will play great role in social development.

"We are supporting such fo-

rum in Latin America and Africa to match development with the technological changes in the world," he said.

Sane said that such forums could be substitute for the government bodies but they work in aid of the transformation process by promoting spending in the social sector. "Political objectives would be articulated through these forums by setting up networks at regional and national levels", he added.

Director UNESCO Islamabad Jorge Sequeira said that Forum of Ministers of Social Development in Asia was a part of Management of Social Transformation (MOST) programme and it would help the government in identifying social strategies in the regional and local context.

For the solution of public problems, provision of human rights, justice and proper democracy in a country is mandatory, he added.

ایشیائی ممالک کا غربت کے خاتمہ کے لیے سیاسی احتیاجی نظام کے اعلامیہ اتفاق

سماجی ترقی کی وزارت کا نفرنس میں اعلامیہ کی منظوری دی گئی پاکستان، بنگلہ دیش، بھارت، سری لنکا، مالڈیپ کے وزراء اور اعلیٰ حکام نے معاہدہ پر دستخط کیے

آئندہ اجلاس بھارت میں ہو گا، فورم کیلئے الگ دفتر، رکن ممالک میں باہمی تعاون کو فروغ دیا جائے گا، مشترکہ اعلامیہ



دہلی میں ایشیائی سماجی ترقی کے وزراء کے فورم کی افتتاحی تقریب میں وزیر اعلیٰ نے خطاب کیا۔

بھارت میں (جنرل نیوز) ایشیا کے ملکوں کی سماجی ترقی کی وزارت کی کانفرنس میں مشترکہ اعلامیہ کی منظوری دی گئی
پانی صفحہ 5، تاریخ نمبر 10

ایشیائی ممالک

ہے جس میں اس موم کا اظہار کیا گیا ہے کہ خطے میں غربت کے خاتمے کیلئے کوششوں کو آگے بڑھایا جائے گا۔ مشترکہ اعلامیہ پر پاکستان، بنگلہ دیش، بھارت، سری لنکا، مالڈیپ کے وزراء اور اعلیٰ حکام نے بھارت میں ہونے والی اجتماع میں دستخط کیے۔ اجلاس میں فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ سماجی ترقی کے شعبے میں باہمی تعاون کو فروغ دیا جائے گا اور ایک دوسرے سے تجربات سے فائدہ اٹھایا جائے گا۔ ایشیا کے جنوبی ممالک میں ہونے والے کانفرنس کا ایک سال کیلئے جتنی میں منتخب کیا گیا اور یہ فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ فورم کا اگلا اجلاس بھارت میں ہو گا۔ اعلامیہ پر دستخط میں آئی دہلی میں وزیر کے علاوہ بنگلہ دیش کے وزیر برائے سماجی بہبود، علی الحسن، بھارت کی سماجی بہبود سیکرٹری، سری لنکا کی وزیر سماجی ترقی، آئی ڈی وی، سری لنکا کی وزیر سماجی بہبود کے سیکرٹری، بھارت اور سری لنکا کے وزیر برائے سماجی بہبود، ڈاکٹر وی ایچ ایچ، دستخط کیے۔ سوشل ڈیولپمنٹ فورم کے افریقہ و وسطی ممالک میں سماجی بہبود کے ساتھ ساتھ زیادہ سے زیادہ ترقیاتی منصوبوں کو متعلقہ ممالک کو بھارت اور ایک دوسرے کے تجربات سے فائدہ اٹھانا شامل ہیں۔ عام آئی ٹی کے علاوہ جیٹل اور دیگر جیٹل سروسز کو فروغ دینا اور جیٹل کی معاونت سے اس فورم کو آگے بڑھایا جائے گا۔ سوشل ڈیولپمنٹ فورم کے اعلامیہ میں فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ فورم کے رکن ممالک میں باہمی تعاون کو فروغ دیا جائے گا۔ سوشل ڈیولپمنٹ فورم کے معاہدہ پر دستخط کے بعد جیٹل کے اسٹینڈ ڈاؤن کیئر جنرل ڈاؤن میں سامنے نے تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ کسی بھی ملک میں جوام کی تلاش، بہبود کیلئے نئے نئے کاموں سے زیادہ اہمیت ضروری ہے۔ ترقی پزیر ممالک کے جوام کا سب سے زیادہ یہ ہے کہ وہاں سماجی ترقی کیلئے نئے نئے کاموں کو فروغ دیا جائے۔