

Company: CRS

Country: Pakistan

Publication: Daily Times, Lahore.

Date: May 15, 2003.

Client: NDI & CCE

Page ref: A4

Status:

## Parliamentary reporting workshop

# Journalist jokes 'one must report all is well'

Staff Report

LAHORE: A workshop for journalists organised by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Centre for Civic Education (CCE) was held at a local hotel here on Wednesday.

The purpose of the workshop was to give parliamentary reporters basic information on parliamentary affairs and its rules and regulations. It was also an opportunity for journalists, parliamentarians and assembly secretariat staff to sit together and voice their problems and demands.

The workshop was divided into different topics with senior journalists giving lectures to young reporters on the history of the profession. In opening remarks, Zafarullah Khan of the CCE said the freedom of the press and democracy went hand in hand. He gave a brief history of parliamentary reporting at press galleries in the UK and other developed countries.

In the first session, senior journalist Aziz Mazhar said reporters in Pakistan had always struggled for

the promotion and protection of civil and political rights. The president of the press gallery committee, Khawaja Farrukh Saeed, said parliamentary reporters should be allowed access to the assembly library.

Sohail Warrach said reporting parliamentary proceedings was akin to walking a tightrope. He advised the attending journalists, only half-jokingly, to portray parliament well with detailed positive reports. Senior journalist Munsoo Bhai said the state had a history of curbing people's rights in the name of national interest and patriotism. "A reporter must be impartial and objective".

IA Rashid talked about the history of press ordinances and the freedom of information ordinance of the Musharraf government. He said the ordinance concealed the facts from journalists. Anjum Zia, head of the mass communication department, Lahore College, gave a presentation on ethics for journalists.

On the parliamentarian side, Syed Abul Hassan Najmi, Muhammad Ahmed Khan, Ehsanullah Waqas, Rana Samaulah,

Qasim Zia and Hussain Jahanian Gardezi spoke on various aspects of the main theme. Mr Waqas said the journalist had an important part in creating public awareness and holding governments accountable. He said reporters should concentrate on the positive side of assembly proceedings. Mr Samaulah narrated some of the rules of procedures of the assembly to clarify his point that the current assemblies have no real power. He also spoke of his alleged harassment by intelligence agencies. Mr Zia elaborated on one rule which meant that provincial assemblies had to obtain permission from the president to amend laws. Mr Khan endorsed the point that the discussions of standing committees should be made open to the public and journalists. He said journalist should report the true substance of discussions. Mr Gardezi said the quality of journalism and journalists was far better now than a decade ago. He said such workshops were necessary for both journalists and parliamentarians. He vowed the government would do all it could to protect the rights of journalists.

Daily Aftaab  
Quetta  
May 25, 2003

### Workshop on Parliamentary Reporting

Parliament represents a sovereign authority in a democratic government and its coverage constitutes the most important domain in the field of media.

Keeping in view this fact, NDI and CCE recently jointly organized a training workshop for the parliamentary reporters in Lahore.

At the workshop, a consensus emerged that a huge responsibility lies on the shoulders of the parliamentary reporters for reporting honestly and professionally all those parliamentary decisions, which directly or indirectly affect the lives of millions of people. It was agreed that parliamentary journalists must play their due role in building an effective relationship between public and their representative institutions.

The workshop was comprised of five sessions and each session provided an excellent opportunity for all the stakeholders including parliamentary leaders, representatives of Assembly Secretariat and parliamentary reporters to discuss challenges the institution of parliamentary reporting is facing and explore best possible way to address them.

پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کی مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔

پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کی مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔

پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کی مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔

پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کی مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔

پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کی مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔

پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کی مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔

# روزنامہ آفتاب

پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کی مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔



JUNAID QSR@HOTMAIL.COM

پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کی مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پارلیمینٹ اور ایگزیکٹو کے مابین جو تعلق ہے اسے صحافتی اداروں کو جاننے کی ضرورت ہے۔

Company: CRS

Country: Pakistan

Publication: Dawn, Lahore.

Date: May 15, 2003.

Client: NDI & CCE

Page ref.: Metropolitan 19

Status:

## Newsmen 'free to express' views

By Our Reporter

LAHORE, May 14: Provincial minister Husain Jahanian Gardazi has said there is greater press freedom in Pakistan than ever before and the journalists have a liberty to criticize the government.

He was speaking at the concluding session of a training workshop on legislative reporting organized by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and the Centre for Civic Education, Pakistan, here on Wednesday. About two dozen newsmen attended the workshop.

The minister said the journalists were free to express their views, and they must ensure that they reported correctly without bias. He said a correct report of an event, particularly the proceedings of the provincial assembly, would help raise the standard of reporting.

He said it was a matter of great satisfaction that the standard of journalism, particularly reporting, had improved during the past decade as now more educated people were joining this profession. He said the government would welcome genuine and constructive criticism by the press. He assured the journalists that the government would try its best to solve their problems.

Punjab Assembly secretary Dr Abdul Hasan Najmi said the press played an important role in strengthening democratic institutions. It could help people struggle for their rights. He said the rule of law was the best requirement of justice and the main aim of any law was that it should promote the public interest. It should be progressive and not retrogressive. He said no democracy could flourish unless the people had a confidence in democratic institutions, and the media could play an important role in developing this confidence.

He said the press should provide correct information to the people without any ambiguity and doubts. He said the press and parliament should have cordial and friendly relations which

would help build the confidence of the people in their elected representatives.

The leader of the opposition in the Punjab Assembly, Qasim Zia, and PML-Q MPA Mohammed Khan also spoke on the occasion.

CPNE president Mujibur Rahman Shami, taking part in panel discussion on editor's perspectives on legislative reporting, said the press and parliament were two important institutions in any democratic setup. But in Pakistan, the democratic process had been repeatedly interrupted by military regimes dissolving the assemblies. In the absence of assembly reporting, the newspapers in order to attract the public had been publishing sensational crime stories. He said first the bureaucracy and then the army had been determining what was in the national interest and dictating the press. Even a portion of the Quaid-e-Azam's speech at the inauguration of the first constituent assembly of Pakistan on Aug 11, 1947, was censored by the then bureaucracy. He said the training of assembly reporters would help improve their coverage of assembly proceedings.

Lahore College for Women University's mass communication department head Ms Anjum Zia gave a lecture on journalists' code of ethics; PPUJ president I.H. Raashed on freedom of information, ensuring objectivity and accuracy in reporting; Punjab Assembly press gallery president Farrukh Saeed on press gallery as an institution; Sohail Warraich on relationship between provincial assemblies and the press; Sajjad Anwar on coverage of standing committees proceedings; Ms Fakhira Tehreem on proceedings in the chamber; and Mubashar Bekhari on parliamentary parties.

Aziz Mazhar and Munno Bhai presided over the first and second sessions of the workshop. NDI country director Ms Mary Cummins and Civic Centre director Zafarullah Khan also addressed.