

Scenario 103

2 MNAs + FED MINISTER IN DRUG COURT:

'Pakistan has ratified the Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs 1961, the UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971, the UN Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988 and the SAARC Convention on Narcotics and the Protocol of Drug Matters with ECO countries. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is the entity that implements UN drug conventions and Article 12 of the Single Convention gives INCB the "responsibility of allocating quotas..."

According to the INCB, Pakistan's "annual legitimate requirement" for Ephedrine – based on population and historical trends – stands at 22,000 kg. (Source: www.incb.org)

Referring to Dr Farrukh Saleem's opinion expressed in **'the News'** of **12th April 2012**:

'Here are the facts: Pakistan ended up importing 31,000 kg [during 2010] which simply could not have been done without the complicity of the entire civil bureaucratic chain. A group of Pakistanis has made a few billion rupees. The Parliament remains in deep hibernation - and totally indifferent to what is going on.'

The superior judiciary was proactive then but as the investigative agencies were under the command of the executive, the judiciary's reactivity was not bearing much fruit. Fingers were pointed at the uppermost crust of the ruling PPP government and topmost bureaucrats.

Some other facts: Till 2012, one out of every 20 Pakistanis was abusing drugs – that's more than 9 million drug users. As per reliable estimates 600,000 additional Pakistanis join the drug club every year. The statistics for college / university students were even worse. One out of every 10 college or university student was a drug addict – there was one university in Karachi where 20 out of 30 students were using *charas* then. Then there was the prison population where four out of 10 prisoners used to consume drugs. Cocaine kills - so does Ephedrine. The World Health Organisation reported a total of 250,000 deaths worldwide due to illicit drug use.

MUSA GILANI SCANDAL:

Pakistan's Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) had done a wonderful job.

On 29th March 2012, the Supreme Court of Pakistan heard another case of PM Yusuf Raza Gilani family's corruption in which an alleged corruption of Rs:7 billion was involved. This time Gilani's younger son Musa Gilani, who was also a sitting MNA in the Parliament, was echoed in import of a chemical illicitly used in 'heroin making' process. In ***GEO's live TV program 'Aaj Kamran Khan ke Sath' dated 29th March 2012*** its full details were discussed.

'Oman Times' dated 31st March 2012 noted that the Supreme Court (SC) turned down a request by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) for withdrawal of that case against the import of a proscribed chemical worth \$77 million in a scandal that allegedly involved the prime minister's younger son, Ali Musa Gilani.

A 3-judge bench, comprising Chief Justice Iftikhar M Chaudhry, Justice Khilji Arif Hussain and Justice Tariq Parvez, had taken up a civil petition moved by the regional director of ANF Islamabad. The court ordered the ANF to submit an investigation report on out-of-turn quota for import of the raw material granted to two pharmaceutical companies by the Federal Ministry of Health under the influence of Musa Gilani.

The ANF Commander, [a serving officer of Pakistan Army] Brig Faheem, informed the court that a quota of 9,000 kg, had been granted to Berlex Labs International and Denis Pharmaceutical. The two companies of Multan and Islamabad were given the quota of 6,500 kg and 2,500 kg respectively by the then Director General Health, Dr Rasheed Jooma.

Pakistan has signed international conventions that whatever is its need, it intimates the International Drug Control Authority and then gets the quota to import ephedrine, but in the case at hand, first both the companies told the Ministry of Health that they had the license to export ephedrine to Afghanistan and other countries and later sought the permission to use it locally, which was given without taking any safety measures.

The matter was once raised in the National Assembly in 2009 where the then Federal Health Minister Makhdoom Shahabuddin had formed a committee under the then Joint Secretary Ministry of Health Mohsin Haqqani, to give recommendations. Later, on the committee's recommendations, the ANF initiated investigation against about ten people, including Dr Rashid Jooma, Iftikhar Ahmed Babar, Rizwan Ahmed Khan, Ihsanur Rehman, Tanvirul Hassan Shirazi, Chaudhry Abdul Waheed, Ansar Farooq Chaudhry, Col (r) Tahir Lahoti, Muhammad Hashim Khan and Tauqir Ali Khan.

[Pakistan annually needs 10,000 kgs of 'ephedrine' and names of 20 companies are short listed by the Ministry of Health to get 500 kg each per year after submitting necessary certificates regarding previous consumptions. In 2010 apart from the normal import of 10,000 kg, the Ministry had dubiously allowed two firms to import 9,000 kg of that chemical ephedrine without scrutiny of the above mentioned two firms of Multan.]

Deputy Director ANF told the court that he had issued a notice to MNA Ali Musa Gilani **on 12th March 2012**, adding that neither Musa nor Tauqir appeared so far.

Commonly known as poor man's cocaine, the chemical is also used to manufacture a medicine called 'Ephedrine' to cure common cold, flu and asthma. The said import permits for 9000 kg substance were issued by the then Secretary Health Khushnood Akhtar Lashari, later the Principal Secretary to the PM. Afterwards, Nargis Sethi was especially asked to [in addition] look after Health Ministry's affairs those days and frequent calls from Musa Gilani were accommodated by her during the year 2011; the ministerial staff told the investigators.

Nargis Sethi became a party to that dirty game by pushing the case into the cold room. Subsequently Nargis Sethi was transferred to PM Secretariat as Secretary In-charge after giving her un-warranted and out of turn promotion in grade 22. Advocate Raja Shahid Abbasi, representing ANF, submitted before the court that Brig Faheem intended to withdraw the petition.

'Who gave you the authority to withdraw the case and under what reasons you have decided to withdraw it; something is wrong in the bottom,' the CJP asked. 'Are you scared when you should be setting an example?'

Brig Faheem told that he was not scared and added that one Tauqir Ahmed Khan; personal secretary to Musa Gilani had surfaced during investigations. He got the quota approved by the Health Ministry against rules and regulations. The apex court was also told that an inquiry committee had determined that the two pharmaceutical companies had misused the quota and allegedly sold it to smugglers, instead of using it for the medicine.

Ali Musa Gilani was then elected as member of National Assembly from Multan on a seat vacated by former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi after joining the Pakistan Tehrik e Insaaf.

PM Gilani's elder son, named Abdul Qadir Gilani, was member of Punjab Assembly (MPA) and was waiting a proper moment to be the Chief Minister of '**Saraeki Suba**' which was on cards those days. MPA Abdul Qadir Gilani, was also involved in mega scandals like National Insurance Company Limited and Hajj Scam; still pending before the SC for final verdict. Referring to '**the News**' of **30th March 2012**:

'To the bad luck of prime minister when he was busy saving the scion of Chaudhrys of Gujrat in NICL scandal, and removed the then Secretary Establishment Sohail Ahmed, an officer of honest repute, and Supreme Court directed the PM to give a posting to Sohail so, the officer was appointed as Secretary Narcotics Control Division. The first briefing which they gave to Sohail Ahmed was regarding the "ephedrine" scandal amounting over Rs:7 billion and allegedly involving the son of Prime Minister.'

Sohail Ahmed, the former Secretary Narcotics Division, gave the written orders to ANF to lodge FIR against the culprits; thus in October an FIR no: 40, under section 9c, 14, 15 and 16 of Narcotics Act was formally lodged. The following alarming facts later surfaced:

- The former DG Health who gave away this illegal quota to PM's son had written a letter to Secretary Narcotics Control Sohail Ahmed alleging that the former Secretary Health, Khushnood A Lashari, was also involved and that all was done as per his wishes.
- The then sitting Secretary Narcotics Division had taken an adverse stance so that the case might become too weak to be trailed.
- It came on record during investigation that the distributor which the **Multan based company referred to, did not exist**, thus no record could be traced to show **where 9,000 kg of ephedrine had gone**.
- Dr Rasheed Jooma, former DG Health who was on interim bail in the Rs:7 billion scandal, told the media **'that nothing has been done against rules and laws'**.
- Dr Jooma also told that the Secretary Health and Chief Drug Controller were also there so why only DG Health was being inquired.

'The situation is bringing a bad name for the country as such things are happening at the official level,' the Chief Justice Iftikhar M Chaudhry regretted and adjourned the matter to 20th April. On the same day the court was told that eight new suspects in the case, including Musa Gilani and the prime minister's Principal Secretary, Khushnood Lashari, had also been charged. ANF's Colonel (ret'd) Syed Akhtar Abbas told the media that:

"Documentary evidence shows that Khushnood Lashari, used to allocate quotas for ephedrine in the presence of Ali Musa Gilani. It can be safely assumed that this [ephedrine] was issued for him [Ali Musa Gilani]."

The media cried desperately that how the family of PM Gilani, for the second time in barely a year, had become enmeshed in a corruption scandal, this time with the other son Ali Musa Gilani accused of being involved in a near-US\$8 million scam of a controlled drug.

The charges came amid growing concern at the levels of corruption surrounding PM Gilani's government while it failed to raise sufficient legitimate tax and other revenues to cover country's needs. Finance Minister Hafeez Shaikh in Washington that week was seeking to secure a new \$4.3 billion loan from International Monetary Fund [IMF] to repay its foreign debts.

MNA Ali Musa Gilani failed to appear before the 3-member Supreme Court bench; he was abroad in South Africa. The charges, laid by Pakistan's ANF come after another son, Abdul Qadir Gilani, was summoned to appear before the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in January 2011, accused of receiving Rs:20 million as kickbacks related to hiring of accommodation for Hajj pilgrims.

An ANF report submitted to the court said the accused allegedly allocated 6,500 kilograms to Berlex Lab International, based in Multan, and 2,500kg to Islamabad-based Danis Pharma (Pvt) Ltd in 2010-11 for export to Iraq and Afghanistan. The allocation also violated a United Nations convention that set the export quota for Iraq at 3,000kg and Afghanistan at 50kg. Ephedrine was allocated to the said two companies out of turn, despite the fact that there were 20 companies waiting for allocation of their usual quota in routine. The two accused companies claimed to have manufactured 218 million and 85 million tablets respectively, from ephedrine, but failed to produce proper sale records.

The irony was that the drug scam had cost senior ANF officials their jobs, echoing events around the Hajj case involving Gilani's other son, Abdul Qadir. ***ANF's DG, Maj Gen Shakeel Hussain and two colleagues investigating the ephedrine case were removed*** from their positions the same month. Gen Hussain was removed after he assured the Supreme Court that he would proceed against all influential people involved in the scam in accordance with the law.

[The same evening, the PM spoke to Gen Kayani expressing his inner grief; the Army Chief got it managed on immediate basis considering it head of the Executive's personal request. The transfer order was signed by Lt Gen Naweed Zaman of GHQ's MS Branch.

The order stated: *"The COAS is pleased to order following posting and apt: PA-17141 Maj Gen Syed Shakeel Hussain from DG ANF to MLRC 10 Corps..... in an existing vacancy and for 'pre-retirement' facilities."* After a week or so, Maj Gen Shakeel had proceeded on retirement.]

A year earlier, one Director of FIA, Hussain Asghar, was removed after he issued a notice to Abdul Qadir asking him to record a statement before the FIA team investigating the Hajj scam. Daily **the 'News'** of that day commented:

"There it is again: another corruption scandal that stretches out into the highest sanctums of power. The memory of how the head investigator in the Hajj scam was transferred after he summoned the son of the Prime Minister, Abdul Qadir Gilani, to record his statement is still fresh.

The present [PPP] government is one of the most corrupt in the world, according to Transparency International of Pakistan (TIP). In 2010, the value of overall corruption rose to 223 billion rupees, from 195 billion rupees a year earlier, according to the organization's national corruption perception survey.

The government could raise \$10 billion additional revenues every year by curbing corruption from government departments and through honest collection of taxes, according to TIP."

The PPP government's failure to secure adequate tax and other revenue had driven up its borrowing; government loans from the central and local banks passed 1.01 trillion rupees as of April 6, up 143% against the corresponding period of the last year, according to the State Bank of Pakistan's own Monthly Report.

SON'S COR'N CASE IN DAD'S CABINET:

On 26th April 2012, Ali Musa Gilani appeared before the investigation officer of the Anti-Narcotics Force [ANF] and recorded a statement while his lawyer was with him. Musa Gilani denied any connection with the Deputy Drug Controller named M Tanvir, former DG Health Dr Jooma and former Health Secretary Khushnood Akhtar Lashari.

MNA Ali Musa was in South Africa on his honey-moon and was scheduled to come back on 2nd May but had to come back earlier. He had landed back on 22nd April to appear before the ANF's team as per directions of the SC. Before the ANF's team, he took a new stance claiming that his phone number was misused of which an investigation could be conducted.

*[Brig Faheem Ahmed Khan and Abid Zulfiqar were also present on the occasion. On 9th April 2012, their boss Maj Gen Shakeel Hussain and another officer who were investigating the Rs:7 billion scam involving illegal sale of ephedrine were removed by the Ministry of Narcotics Control. **How they could survive after chasing and implicating (in a corruption case) son of the sitting prime minister Mr Gilani – it was taken as a blow to the democracy; forget corruption – it was their right.]***

A tribute & salute to the Pakistani justice and democracy.....]

Earlier, the ANF had submitted a report before the Supreme Court formally naming eight accused persons, including Musa Gilani, for their alleged involvement in the scam. According to the ANF report presented in the apex court, the accused managed to convert the allotment of drugs intended for export into local use with the help of the health ministry staff and under alleged political pressure from Musa Gilani and Mian Abdul Sattar.

It is unusual for a country's Cabinet to comment on or take up criminal cases; it is even more unusual for the highest decision - making body in the land to rise to defend an accused. But then we are getting accustomed to more and more unusual events in Pakistan – an Islamic Republic.

The placing of the case of illegal ephedrine quotas allegedly involving Ali Musa Gilani before the cabinet by his father, the prime minister, amounted to nepotism – and a gross misuse of power. It is globally virtually unprecedented for the cabinet of any country to take up a criminal matter pending before the courts and claim that the accused is the victim of a media campaign which has caused a scandal. Ali Musa Gilani was in South Africa at that moment and was claiming much the same.

The task of any cabinet is to make decisions on crucial issues. It should be focusing its energy on working for the welfare of the people of the country and determining matters which are of key significance to them. It should not have taken the role of a jury determining the guilt or innocence of an individual, regardless of who he or she is. This is what the criminal justice system stands for.

It was also pointless to accuse the media of gunning for the PM's son. There was no reason why it should indulge in this. Such stories usually have elements of truth in them, which is why they stick. The Anti Narcotics Force had already claimed it was in possession of substantial evidence in that case. Let this evidence be analysed in a court of law.

The issue whether Ali Musa Gilani was guilty or not, should have been determined by the courts alone. Bringing the cabinet into the affair was completely unjustified. It made a mockery of the norms according to which a country should be run. It was also a sign of desperation on the part of PM Gilani and his family.

The cabinet's involvement was to complicate matters and to make it even more difficult for ordinary citizens to believe that everyone was equal before the law. If the matter of the younger Gilani could be taken up by the cabinet the why every person accused was not given the same importance and defended in a similar fashion by our ministers and other top officials of the land.

But the analysts forget that Ali Musa, the culprit, was the son of the sitting Prime Minister Y R Gilani.

Due to ANF's high positioned officer's removal from their respective posts and then Cabinet's interference the investigation of the case was put on slow track.

Another important factor cropped up – the Prime Minister Gilani was sent home by the Supreme Court in a contempt court in the last week of April 2012 - 26th April when the final hearing was given to the case. Musa Gilani had to join the investigation as and when required by the ANF authorities. He was on the interim bail.

On 22nd June 2012; the Special Anti-Narcotics Magistrate, Rawalpindi, Shafqatullah Khan, issued non-bailable warrants in the ephedrine case for the arrest of Makhdoom Shahabuddin, once the candidate of the PPP for the office of prime minister, and MNA Ali Musa Gilani. The

court had summoned the accused on 16th June and when they did not turn up, the court issued their arrest warrants.

The DG ANF, Maj Gen Malik Zafar Iqbal, said it was a coincidence that the court had issued the arrest warrants when the PPP nominated Shahabuddin as its candidate for the slot of prime minister. He said it was a court procedure to summon an accused first and if the accused did not appear before the court, then the arrest warrant was issued. The ANF had also sent a letter to the Ministry of Interior to put the name of the accused on the Exit Control List (ECL).

After the issuance of warrants, the ANF also conducted raids to arrest the accused. A Supreme Court bench, headed by CJP Chaudhry, had earlier directed the ANF to arrest Shahabuddin, who had approved the ephedrine quota for Danas Pharma with Ali Musa Gilani allegedly being the principal beneficiary of the sanction.

On 14th September 2012, Ali Musa Gilani was arrested from the gate of the Supreme Court while he was on his way to appear for a hearing of his case. The ANF personnel took Musa Gilani into custody when he arrived at the apex court's gate to appear for the hearing in the ephedrine quota case. Musa Gilani had offered some resistance when ANF personnel tried to take him into custody.

Though Yousaf Raza Gilani was no more the prime minister after April 2012's SC orders but the whole PPP government was found at Ali Musa Gilani's back meaning thereby that corruption was fair or legalised during political regimes – if done by party's patrons and high positioned members.

Station House Officer (SHO) of Secretariat Police station, Inspector Haq Nawaz Ranjha was removed from his post and censured over his involvement in assisting the Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) in arresting the former premier's son, Ali Musa Gilani in a hostile manner. The order was issued from the Central Police Office (CPO) over the government and interior minister's displeasure.

Over the displeasure of the ruling party, the senior police officers in CPO obtained the details of the incident which revealed that the SHO Secretariat, Inspector Ranjha had acted at his own after the ANF official had verbally asked him to '*maintain law and order*' during the arrest. In the eyes of law, the SHO was duty bound to act like that but the act of helping ANF in that arrest of an accused was not liked by the then Interior Minister Rehman Malik – because the accused was Ali Musa Gilani.

[Ali Musa Gilani, a sitting member of National Assembly, was picked up at the gate of the Supreme Court. He was roughed up, and dragged out from his vehicle and bundled in the ANF's official vehicle, after being handcuffed. During the hostile treatment, he suffered injuries and blood stains smeared his trousers, above the left knee.

The fact remained that in practice the ANF keep their operation a secret on the pretext that the accused would escape from the spot if police is told. However, the ANF after successful operation or arrest, got help from CrPC's section 48 & 49 and justified their act for not informing the local police in fear that the accused could escape.]

In short; a 3-member bench of the Supreme Court (SC) headed by Justice Nasirul Mulk granted interim bail to MNA Ali Musa Gilani in the ephedrine case till 25th of that month. The court also directed Musa Gilani to submit two surety bonds of five hundred thousand rupees each. Musa Gilani was produced before the court by the Anti Narcotics Force [ANF] after his arrest earlier morning from outside the Supreme Court building.

He tried to agitate the court by saying that:

'.....he had faith in the Supreme Court, but not the ANF. I respect the courts and used to think that everyone else does, too. But, today, the camera's eye witnessed that uniformed men committed contempt of court while being in the vicinity of the Supreme Court....';

But the judges could only give a smile. Later, while talking to the media persons after his interim bail, Musa Gilani said he was not the main accused in the case and on him there were charges of putting pressure only.

On 29th January 2013; the assets of former pm Mr Gilani's son Ali Musa Gilani; wife - Fozia Gilani and other accused including Makhdoom Shahabuddin and Khushnood Lashari were ordered to be seized in ephedrine quota case by the Anti-Narcotics Force court and also issued summons to the accused allegedly involved in this case.

According to the ANF's fourth challan [final report u/s 173 CrPC] in the ephedrine case, there were 17 accused persons including two approvers, Dr Rashid Jooma, former DG Health, and Rizwan Ahmed Khan, former Director of the Danas Pharmaceutical Company, who obtained 2,500 kg ephedrine quota. Initially named as accused, ***Dr Jooma and Rizwan Khan turned approvers in July that year and alleged the involvement of Makhdoom Shahab, Federal Minister for Textile Industries, Ali Musa Gilani, son of former pm Mr Gilani, and Federal Secretary Khushnood Lashari.*** The two approvers were to be treated the prime witnesses then.

On 22nd March 2013; Judge Arshad Mehmood Tabassum of the Anti-Narcotics Court ordered that Ali Musa Gilani and former federal minister Makhdoom Shahabuddin should be indicted in the ephedrine scam case. On the next hearing [**5th April 2013**], the court was given compliance and also informed about the arrest of Tauqir Ali Khan, the main accused in the case. Khan had been declared an absconder by the Islamabad High Court in the case and was arrested upon his return from Dubai.

On 9th February 2014; the Control of Narcotics Substances Court (CNSC) formally indicted Ali Musa Gilani and Makhdoom Shahabuddin among 13 accused in the said case. The CNSC Judge Akhtar Bahadar expressed his anguish over Ali Musa's non-appearance in the court and had to warn his counsel about consequences. The case against Ali Musa Gilani and others was strengthened after ***Tauqir Khan also became a state approver.*** According to the ANF, Khan was Ali Musa's front man and the mediator between health officials and Berlex and Danas, pharmaceutical companies in the Ephedrine case.

In the meantime, Ali Musa Gilani approached the Lahore High Court [LHC] to get his name removed from the Exit Control List (ECL); his petition was accepted for regular hearing. **On 14th April 2014;** the LHC summoned the final arguments by the Interior Ministry and Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in his case.

LHC's Justice Manzoor Ahmed Malik was in chair; and the Prosecutor told the court that the name of Ali Musa Gillani was added as the main culprit in the Ephedrine case. The accused could flee the country if his name was removed from the ECL and would affect the hearing of the case. The court summoned the final arguments by the Interior Ministry and Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and adjourned the hearing till 15th May.

On 15th May 2014; Ali Musa Gilani told in the court that he had joined former president Gen Musharraf while he urged the court to remove his name from Exit Control List (ECL).

MNA HANIF ABBASI – BRUTUS TOO:

On 30th July 2012; The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) registered a case against a Pakistan Muslim League-N [PML(N)] legislator, MNA Hanif Abbasi and his partner Zafar Bakhtawari, owners of Gray Pharmaceutical, for their alleged involvement in misuse of 500kg of a controlled chemical ephedrine which they obtained in 2010. MNA Abbasi's pharmaceutical company had procured that ephedrine surpassing the legal quota limit by leaps and bounds. The FIR was registered in an ANF station.

MNA Abbasi regretted the action terming it as a blatant political victimization as the quota he had acquired was legal. It is mentionable that it was the same scam, which prevented Makhdom Shahabuddin from vying for the premiership of the country as an arrest warrant was issued for him hours before he could even take oath of the next premiership.

On 14th August 2012: MNA Abbasi had sought an eight week long protective bail on the ground that *he was a resident of Karachi* and needed time to travel to the trial court in Rawalpindi. He also requested the court to grant him time to engage a lawyer and to appear before the anti-narcotics court. Court granted him a bail till 7th September 2012. **On 7th September 2012;** the LHC granted pre-arrest interim bail to Mr Abbasi.

On 23rd September 2012; Hanif Abbasi placed allegations on army stating that Pak-Army was putting pressure on ANF Chief and wanted to defame him. Next day, DG ANF Maj Gen Zaffar Iqbal said that the Pakistan Army had nothing to do with the activities of the ANF, nor was the army involved in any case being investigated by his directorate.

On 1st November 2012; The Rawalpindi Bench of the Lahore High Court (LHC) confirmed the bails of PML(N)'s MNA Hanif Abbasi, former Drug Controller, Sheikh Ansar and owner of the Lahore Pharmaceutical Company, Nadeem Zafar in the said Ephedrine quota case. A 2-member bench comprising Justice Sagheer Ahmed Qadri and Justice Ali Baqir Najafi had confirmed the bails of the accused against surety bonds of Rs: 500,000 and two guarantors each.

Prosecutor General of the ANF, Raja Shahid contended that the record submitted by Hanif Abbasi about usage of the allotted quota was 'bogus'. There were indications that the quota was sold to the smugglers of Afghanistan instead of using it in manufacturing medicines locally. Abbasi and other accused had pleaded there was complete record of the medicines manufactured with the Ephedrine chemical and its distribution.

On 22nd January 2013: the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC), lifting ban on transfers in ANF, transferred the case of bails of Makhdom Shahabuddin, Hanif Abbasi and Musa Gilani to another bench. Hearing the ephedrine case, a 3-judge SC bench headed by CJP Chaudhry also disposed off a petition seeking fresh probe into the said case. ANF's Commander Fahim said ANF had earlier reservations about the transfer of Zafar Abbas, which had been addressed. On that, the CJP remarked that court would not interfere in transfer matters.

On 29th May 2013; The ANF requested the SC to initiate proceedings against Hanif Abbasi, Ali Moosa Gilani, Makhdom Shahabuddin and other five accused in ephedrine quota case. Till that moment, though PML(N) had won the general elections and Nawaz Sharif had grabbed the premiership of the country but MNA Hanif Abbasi could not win back his seat.

On 11th July 2013; The ANF submitted a challan against former MNA Abbasi in the local court and declared his brother an absconder; the challan was forwarded to the Control of Narcotics Substances Court (CNSC) where the hearing was to be scheduled. **On 9th October 2013;** the said CNS Court granted bail to Abdul Basit Abbasi, the brother of the PML(N)'s Hanif Abbasi. Basit Abbasi and a local distributor of the medicine, Ahmed Bilal, had been added in the challan and despite repeated notices; they had not appeared before the ANF investigation team.

On 19th October 2013; The ANF filed a petition in the Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench requesting the cancellation of Hanif Abbasi`s bail in the said case. Hanif Abbasi claimed he had used the 500kg ephedrine in the production of DSM tablets, and also provided a few samples to the ANF as evidence in his defence. On the other hand, the ANF maintained that the specification of the capsules produced by Mr Abbasi did not match the actual specifications of the medicine. Allegedly, Mr Abbasi had produced DSM tablets containing ephedrine from elsewhere.

On 12th November 2013; Hanif Abbasi approached the Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench to quash criminal proceedings against him in the ephedrine case. In his defence, Hanif Abbasi had included statements of two officials of Arafaat Traders, the Karachi-based medicine distribution company, to whom Abbasi claimed to have supplied 11,000 ephedrine - containing tablets. ***The tragedy happened with Abbasi that the officials of the distribution company denied Abbasi's claim, the challan revealed later.***

On 2nd July 2014; the CNS Court had summoned Hanif Abbasi [then Chairman Metro Bus Project Committee and not the MNA], on 4th August for indictment in ephedrine case. The ANF in the challan submitted in the CNS Court had re-affirmed Hanif Abbasi, his brother and five employees of his Grey Pharmaceuticals as accused persons.

Hanif Abbasi had lost the 11th May 2013 elections from NA-56 to PTI chief Imran Khan; it has already been written in the earlier paragraphs.

On 4th July 2014; an LHC division bench, comprising Justice Ijaz Ahmed and Justice Ch Masood Jahangir, issued notice to the ANF after hearing preliminary arguments on Mr Abbasi`s petition, and adjourned the matter till a future date.

On 29 August 2014; the CNS Court rejected bail petition of former MNA Hanif Abbasi in the said ephedrine quota case. Abbasi`s counsel had submitted a fresh application under section 256 requesting the court to acquit his client. The counsel claimed that his client was innocent and that the case was fabricated and politically - motivated.

On 29th October 2014; the CNS court of Rawalpindi indicted the PML(N)s Hanif Abbasi, and eight others in ephedrine case under section 9-C, 14 and 15 of the CNS Act. The said court also indicted Basit Abbasi, brother of Hanif Abbasi, distributor and employees of Grey Pharma. Challan also contained statement of Razia Bakhtawari, the owner of D-Watson Chemist - contradicting the initial claims made by Mr Abbasi of supplying the ephedrine contained medicine to her outlets.

CNS Judge M Akhtar Bahadur read out the charges against the accused. However, the accused pleaded not guilty. Subsequently, the judge directed the prosecution to produce evidence against the accused and adjourned the proceedings. On the next date the prosecution was asked to produce 10 witnesses out of total 40 witnesses.

After that nothing heard what happened to the case – but do not be panic; in Pakistan nothing happens to the kith & kins & cronies of big guns – courts and laws are always on their side.