

DAWN

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Many facets of violence against women

By Sadaf Siddiqui

LAHORE: Sept 16: The South Asia Partnership on Wednesday organized a regional conference at a local hotel to discuss violence against women in politics. The main objective of the conference is to create common understanding about this issue as few people alone cannot solve everything. A few placards prepared by SAP team read thus: "Abolish feudal and patriarchal system", "Media should portray positive image of women in politics", etc.

Muhammad Tahseen, the executive director of SAP, spoke next saying even the sphere of politics is not free from violence, especially against women. A young woman MPA from Gujranwala was shot dead while the last elections held in Afghanistan saw the fingers of voters chopped off. This issue needs to be addressed on a priority, more so in Pakistan. How the women in parliament are treated and what done for their protection are a few important questions.

Rohit Kumar Nepali, executive director SAP-International, highlighted the cases of violence against women in politics. Starting off by stating that contract and complexities are very much present in the South Asian Countries, he said on one hand people honour women immensely and on the other they treat them as second-class citizens and probably even worse.