



17th Speakers' Conference

April 13 - 15, 2014
Islamabad

Volume-II

THE BULLETIN OF 17TH SPEAKERS' CONFERENCE

Tuesday, 15 April 2014

SPEAKERS DISCUSS ISSUES CONFRONTING LEGISLATURES



17th Speakers' Conference in session

The Presiding Officers of the country's legislatures had a field day as they critically deliberated on an extensive agenda, pertaining to the legal, administrative & procedural business. They reviewed the implementation status of the 16-Point Agenda of the previous 16th Conference and also discussed the 11 issues, as raised in the current Conference Agenda.

In its deliberations, the delegates had fruitful exchange of ideas on numerous issues, including Points of Order, reporting of expunged remarks and the sustained efforts in strengthening parliamentary institutions.

The Conference resolved to institutionalize the parliamentary practice of "Zero Hour" to facilitate the Members

so that the Points of Order could be raised as per rules only. The Conference also stressed on strengthening the institutional capacity of Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) for much more improved delivery of services by the parliamentarians to the people of Pakistan.

The Speakers praised the evolving practice of following annual calendar of sessions and committed to abide by their respective schedules as a step forward to the best time management of the legislators.

The Speakers' Conference expressed gratitude to the Parliament of Pakistan for amending the Constitution on its recommendations to curtail the time for assenting to a Bill by the President

under Article 75(1) and to define a Party Head under Article 63A(1).

There was consensus on enhancing the research and automation facilities in all legislatures. The Conference decided to form a Technical Committee comprising the IT managers of all the legislatures, headed by the Director General IT of the National Assembly with the task to propose an integration plan for IT and "On Line" Library facilities. The Committee will submit its report within one month.

The need of a dedicated Parliamentary TV Channel in the changing times was also felt with an aim to apprise the electorate of the legislatures' working, thus ensuring transparency and free access to information.

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Speaker Ayaz Sadiq emphasized to have the Parliamentary Service of Pakistan to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Secretariats of all Houses. There was unanimity of views in bringing conformity to the Service Rules of all Houses. With specific reference to the Article 87 of the Constitution, the Conference, therefore, formed a Committee, headed by the Secretary Senate to propose uniform Service Rules. This Committee will submit its Report within six months.

It was also decided to ensure the implementation of the Supreme Court's decision, which declared employees of the Parliament and Assemblies as Civil Servants. The Conference stressed that the employees of the legislatures should not be denied of any concession, privilege or right which is admissible to the respective Federal and Provincial Government Employees/ Civil Servants.

It was informed by the Hon'able Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq that the Parliament of Pakistan would host the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's next Conference in 2015. The delegates welcomed the move and assured joint support to make the international event a success story.

The Speakers' Conference also constituted a Secretaries Committee to ensure follow-up of the decisions of the Conference by regularly holding six-monthly meetings thereof.

Agha Siraj Durrani, the Hon'able Speaker of the Sindh Assembly cordially offered to host the next Speakers' Conference in Karachi, which was accepted by all with gratitude.

CONFERENCE'S WOMAN DELEGATE



Deputy Speaker AJ&K Shaheen Kousar Dar attending the Conference

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, the Chairman of the 17th Conference praised the inputs of Ms. Shaheen Dar, the Deputy Speaker of the AJ&K Legislative Assembly in the proceeding of the Conference. She is the only woman delegate in the Conference. Ms. Dar is a lawyer by profession. She hails from the Punch city of the occupied Jammu region and is a leading woman political activist of the Region. She was elected on a seat reserved for women in July 2011 and was consequently elected as the Deputy Speaker.

In this capacity, Ms. Dar was instrumental in forming a Women's Parliamentary Caucus in the AJ&K Legislative Assembly, which she currently heads. A noted columnist, she also regularly contributes to numerous national and regional newspapers and journals. Although Ms. Shehla Raza, the Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh is also an Ex-officio Member of this august forum, yet she could not attend the Conference due to Assembly's current session to enable Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani to attend this Speakers Moot.



TODAY'S ENGAGEMENTS

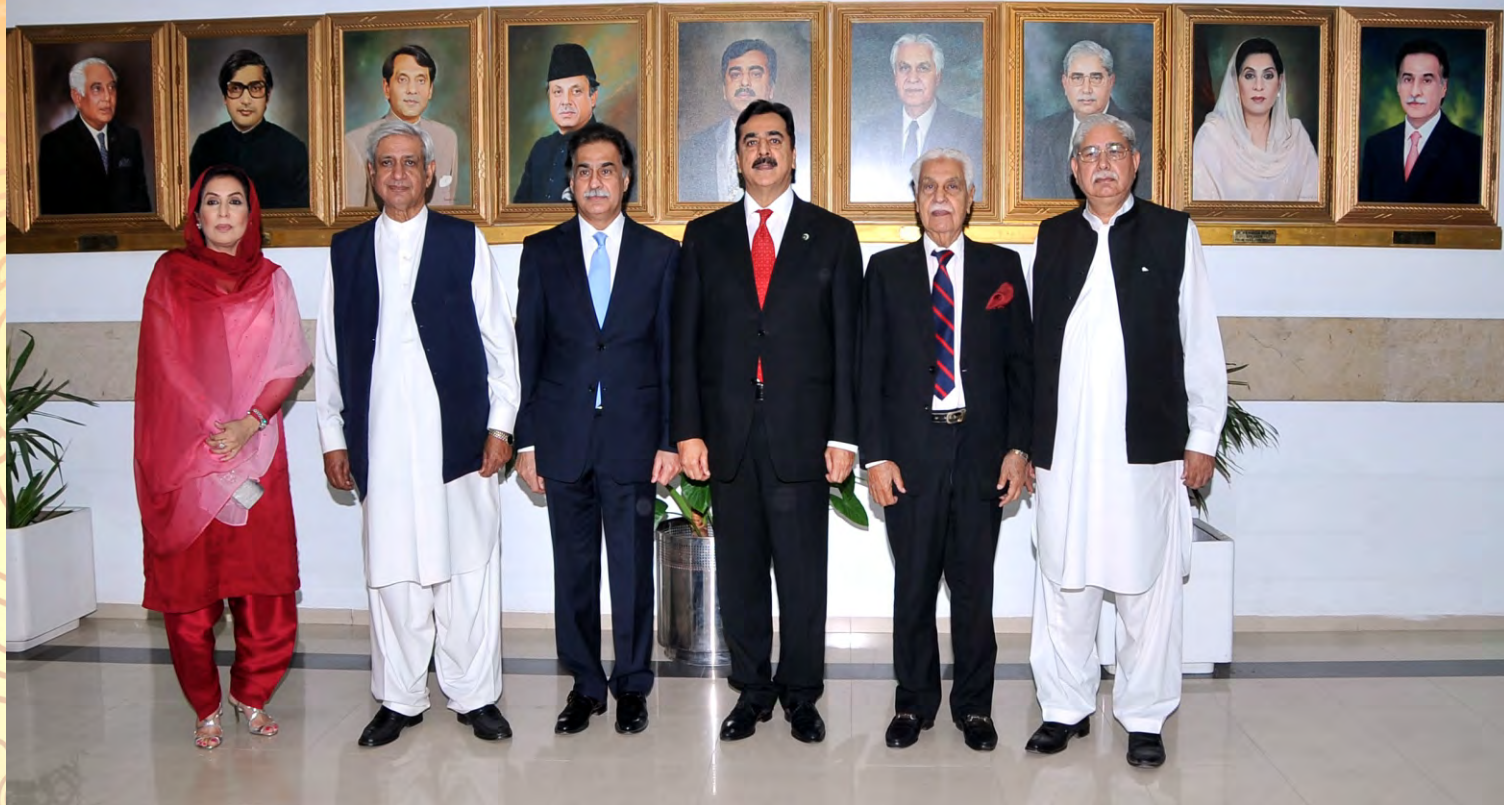
Tuesday, April 15, 2014

- ◆ 0945 Hrs. Assemble in the Lobby
- ◆ 0950 Hrs. Departure from Hotel
- ◆ 1000 Hrs. Arrival at the Parliament House
- ◆ 1005 Hrs. i) Recitation from the Holy Quran
ii) 3rd Session of Conference (Discussion on Agenda-continue)
iii) Islamabad Declaration (Closing)
- ◆ 1130 Hrs. Tea
- ◆ 1145 Hrs. Press Conference in Committee Room # 2
- ◆ 1300 Hrs. Lunch
- ◆ Departure of Guests



NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq with Leader of the Opposition Syed Khurshheed Ahmed Shah

FORMER SPEAKERS KNOCK HISTORY DOORS



Group Photo of NA Speaker with Former Speakers

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq surely created history when on his invitation at least five of his predecessors graced the Dinner as "Guests of Honour", which was hosted by the Speaker on April 13's night for the delegates of the 17th Speakers' Conference.

Held in the tastefully decorated Banquet Hall of the Parliament House, the event was attended by the Deputy Chairman Senate, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, all Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the four provincial assemblies, AJ&K and Gilgit-Baltistan. Senior officials of all national, provincial and regional legislatures were also present. The highlight, nevertheless, was the presence of Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, former Prime Minister and Speaker from 1993-96, Syed Fakhar Imam (1985-86), Mr. Illahi Bukhsh Soomro (1997-99), Ch. Amir Hussain (2002-2007) and Dr. Fehmida Mirza (2008-2013). Speaker Ayaz Sadiq paid rich tributes to the

services and acumen of all his predecessors and called them "legends". On his request, the audience gave a standing ovation to the former Speakers.

While recalling his days as Speaker, Syed Yousuf Raza elaborated how tolerance of the government of the day was essential for the growth of parliamentary traditions and principles. In this regard, he referred to the issuance of production orders by him for the imprisoned Members under Rule 90 of the then Rules of Business (now Rule 108). This, Mr. Gillani, recalled, was initially resisted by the then Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto however on the persistence of the Speaker, she had to comply with the orders. This set the principle which later benefitted all, including Mohtarma and her spouse Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, when he was in prison.

Syed Fakhar Imam, who was elected Speaker by the 1985 National Assembly, recalled

his unexpected election by the Non-Party House and his famous Ruling, which forced the then military dictator to lift the Marshal Law on January 1, 1986. Mr. Imam was taken by a pleasant surprise when he was informed by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq that this Ruling, along-with all the Rulings from 1947 to 1997 had been compiled and published as a book while 90% work had already been carried out in compiling the rest till today, which would shortly go into print.

Mr. Illahi Bukhsh Soomro quipped in a lighter tone his encounters with the former Prime Minister and the then Leader of Opposition, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

Chaudhary Amir Hussain, who served as the Speaker during the presidency of former military ruler Gen. Pervez Musharaf, reminded the gathering that while all other Speakers had served in democratic regimes, he had to face difficult times as during his tenure, there were "more than one centres of power" and the Speaker had to play the balancing role among them. This

had brought immense pressure on him, especially from the Opposition in the House. He, nevertheless, lauded the Opposition's role, which had shown respect and grace to the Chair despite numerous showdowns.

Dr. Fehmida Mirza, the first woman Speaker of Pakistan and the Muslim World, recalled her famous ruling on the question of the disqualification of the sitting Prime Minister as Member of the House. She said that while dictating this Ruling she had extensively consulted noted jurists and numerous court decisions. It was her opinion that the office of the Speaker was not a "mere post office" and the Speaker had to "apply his mind". The Ruling, therefore, should have been treated as the "final word", in accordance with the "spirit of the law and constitution." The occasion was cherished by all, who praised Speaker Ayaz Sadiq's suggestion of inviting and involving the inputs of the former Speakers in the Speakers Conference on permanent basis.

PICTURE GALLERY



NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq delivering his speech on the occasion of dinner hosted by Deputy Chairman Senate Sabir Ali Baloch in honour of the delegates of 17th Speakers' Conference



NA Deputy Speaker Murtaza Javed Abbasi hosted lunch in respect of participants of 17th Speakers' Conference



Deputy Speaker
Legisitive Assembly
GILGIT-BALTISTAN



Deputy Speaker
Provincial Assembly
BALOCHISTAN

Islamabad Weather Today

28° C  17° C

Humidity 23% - 39%