



- I. Gender
- II. Democracy Watch
- III. Governance at Large
- IV. Geo-Political Dynamics

Vol - III Edition - II  
April 2008

## Gender

### Women & Politics

#### Women Ministers in New Federal and Provincial Cabinets of Pakistan

Women have been given considerable representation in the Federal and Provincial cabinets of Pakistan. Following are the new women Ministers and their respective portfolios:

#### Federal Cabinet

Ministers	Party	Portfolios
Sherry Rehman	PPP	Information & Broadcasting
Tehmina Daultana	PPP	Science & Technology

#### Provincial Cabinets

Ministers	Party	Portfolios
<b>Punjab</b>		
Neelam Jabbar	PPP	Population Welfare
<b>Sindh</b>		
Sassui Palijo	PPP	Culture & Tourism
Shazia Mari	PPP	Information
Nargis N.D. Khan	PPP	Social Welfare
Tauqeer Fatima Bhutto	PPP	Women Development
<b>NWFP</b>		
Sitara Ayaz	ANP	Social Welfare & Women Development
<b>Balochistan</b>		
Ghazala Gola	PPP	Minorities Affairs
Rubina Irfan	PML-Q	Portfolio not assigned
Perveen Magsi	PML-Q	Portfolio not assigned
Nasreen Kethran	PML-Q	Portfolio not assigned
Rukiya Saeed Hashmi	PML-Q	Special Assistant to CM

#### Women Diplomats of Pakistan Dominate European Capitals

Whether it is the outcome of a calculated effort to show to the world that Pakistan is a country of “enlightened moderates”, which has though now become a slogan of the past, or a demonstration for gender equality, our ambassadors in the influential European capitals are predominantly women. In the political arena, Pakistan is already the first-ever Muslim country to have produced a woman prime minister Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, who was elected twice to rule the country as well as a woman speaker of the National Assembly Dr Fehmida Mirza ñ but perhaps not many know that Islamabad presently has nine women ambassadors in the influential capitals of

Europe. It is argued that there is no other country perhaps in the world matching Pakistan as far as the number of women ambassadors to different countries in the European capitals is concerned. In London, which is the most important capital in Europe, Pakistan's ambassador posted there is Dr Maleeha Lodhi, who is a non-career diplomat or can also be termed a political appointee. Once a journalist, Maleeha has enjoyed such a long stint of ambassadorial assignments under President General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf in the two most important capitals of the world – Washington and London – which no career diplomat can ever dream of. Before the imposition of the military rule on Oct 12, 1999, Maleeha had already served one term as Pakistan's ambassador to the United States. But at that time she was deputed there by the democratic government of Benazir Bhutto. During those days, she had a close association with Benazir Bhutto. After the imposition of Martial Law in 1999, Maleeha was picked up by the then military ruler and now retired General President Pervez Musharraf as Pakistan's ambassador to the US where she served from 1999-2002 and became the longest-ever serving ambassador to the US. She was also conferred Hilal-e-Imtiaz Presidential Award for Public Service by Musharraf.

In 2003, under a fresh contract she was appointed the country's ambassador to the UK where she is still continuing. Except Maleeha, all the other women ambassadors in Europe are career diplomats i.e. belonging to the Foreign Service of Pakistan. These include Naghmana A Hashmi in Ireland; Fauzia Sana in Portugal; Tasnim Aslam, the first-ever Foreign Office spokeswoman, ambassador to Italy; Humaira Hasan in Spain; Asma Anisa in France; Aysha Riaz in Switzerland; Fauzia Abbas in Denmark; and Seema Illahi Baloch in Poland. There are not many in the Foreign Office offering comment on the performance of these women ambassadors. However, the only woman political appointee, Maleeha, is believed to be the most popular. Maleeha, for being unlike the routine Foreign Office Baboos, is said to have developed extensive links with the Pakistani community living there.

While a considerable number of women ambassadors are already occupying major capitals in Europe, some senior women officers in the Foreign Ministry are waiting for their turn to head the country's foreign missions. Fauzia Nasreen, who is a BS-22 officer of the Foreign Service of Pakistan and is presently Director General Foreign Service Academy, is one of such aspirants. For being in BS-22, it is said, she would not be offered an ordinary capital. Raana Raheen, presently a directing staff in the National Defence College, is also to be posted abroad. Rifaat Iqbal, presently ambassador in Harare, according to a source, is also looking for a posting in Europe.

### **Australia Gets its First Woman Governor-General**

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on April 13 named Queensland Governor Quentin Bryce as Australia's next Governor-General, the first woman to act as the British queen's representative in the country. Mr. Rudd, who returned to Canberra from an 18-day world tour during which he met Queen Elizabeth II at the Buckingham Palace, said the monarch had approved Bryce on his recommendation. The Prime Minister said that Ms. Bryce — a lawyer, academic and former federal sex discrimination commissioner — “captures the spirit of modern Australia”. He said the 65-year-old grandmother, who grew up in a small town in Mr. Rudd's home state of Queensland, had demonstrated a strong commitment to rural Australia, the rights of women and Aborigines. Mr. Rudd said he was pleased that a woman would serve as governor-general, a post created under the constitution in 1901 and a person who, as the monarch's representative, has the power to dismiss the government. Ms. Bryce, who will replace Vietnam war veteran Maj-Gen Michael Jeffery when he retires in September, said her appointment marked a great day for Australian women. Mr. Rudd sidestepped the issue of whether the next Governor-General, who like her predecessors will carry out largely ceremonial duties, would be the nation's last if Australia cuts ties with the monarch and becomes a republic. Australia's Governor-General has the power to appoint a Prime Minister in the event of a hung parliament after an election, or dismiss the leader if he or she loses the confidence of lawmakers or acts unlawfully. While also nominally the commander-in-chief of the Australian Defence Force, the Governor-General in practice acts on the advice of the government.

### **Zapatero Appoints Spain's First Cabinet with Female Majority**

Spain's re-elected Socialist Party Prime Minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, has broken his own record for sexual equality by appointing a predominantly female cabinet for the first time in the country's history. His nine female ministers not only form a majority in a 17-strong cabinet, but also occupy heavyweight positions, including for the first time the Defence Ministry.

Carme Chacon, 37, a Catalan, moves from a short stint in charge of the housing in the previous government to control the **Defence** portfolio, amid mounting concern over the role of Spanish troops in Afghanistan. Ms Chacon, who is expecting a baby, was a key activist in securing Mr Zapatero's surprise victory as Socialist Party leader in 2000, and is considered a member of his inner circle. In addition to her ministerial duties, she is expected to form a bridge between ruling socialists in Madrid and Catalonia's regional government.

One of Mr Zapatero's most influential ministers, Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega, consolidates her position as **Deputy Prime Minister** with increased responsibilities. Other experienced women include Magdalena Alvarez, who continues at **Public Works** and must solve Catalonia's water crisis; Mercedes Cabrera at **Education**, and Elena Salgada at **Public Administrations**, who must settle rivalries between the autonomous regions and Madrid.

Mr Zapatero, who was sworn in as Prime Minister before King Juan Carlos, made history four years ago by appointing equal number of men and women as ministers. This time around he has also underlined his commitment to gender equality by giving women the numerical edge in the cabinet and also creating an Equality Ministry. This is to be headed by Spain's youngest ever minister, Bibiana Aido, 31, a former regional MP for Andalusia and ex-director of the region's Flamenco Agency. However, the healthy female quota in the cabinet has not gone down well with everyone. Mr Zapatero's choices were promptly criticized in barely veiled sexist terms by a conservative commentator who referred contemptuously in ABC newspaper to "ZP's battalion of inexperienced seamstresses". Male heavyweights remain: the veteran Pedro Solbes at Economy; Miguel Angel Moratinos at Foreign Affairs; and as Interior Minister, the old socialist fox Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba, who has earned the confidence of Basque politicians of all stripes in countering armed Eta separatists.

## Women & Economics

### Dr Faiza vows to Generate Jobs through Cottage Industry

Pakistan People's Party MPA on the women reserved seat, Dr Faiza Rashid has vowed to generate employment opportunities by establishing home-based industries and providing training to vulnerable sections of the society inside their homes. She expressed concern over the existing condition of her district, saying that majority of people particularly women had been exploited. The previous governments did nothing practical to resolve their problems. The MPA said the government is trying to repatriate Afghan refugees from various camps in Peshawar but majority of them had shifted to Haripur, adding eight refugees camps had been established in Haripur. "The presence and influx of fresh refugees to my district has multiplied the miseries of the local population and crime rate.

### High-Powered Women to Fight Poverty

A high-powered alliance of women from government, faith-based organizations, advocacy groups and Hollywood will launch a major drive on April 13 to help impoverished women and girls around the world. The alliance, which has the backing of Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Queen Noor of Jordan and former US secretary of state Madeleine Albright among other luminaries, will unveil new fundraising commitments of \$1.481 billion in the US capital this weekend. The **Women, Faith and Development Alliance (WFDA)** says the funds that have been raised so far will cumulatively benefit one billion poor women and girls around the globe.

Laura Bush, wife of US President George W Bush, Kim Campbell, the former Prime Minister of Canada, and Hollywood actress Ashley Judd also support the alliance. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is one of the biggest supporters so far and has made a commitment of 500 million dollars over several years to address maternal mortality and to stop violence against women. Islamic Relief has pledged 43 million dollars to improve education, basic health care and water access for over one million women and girls. Catholic Relief Services and World Vision have also signed up to the inter-faith grouping that is being supported by US healthcare products giant Johnson & Johnson and other large corporations.

The women and girl-focused campaign, like other global anti-poverty drives, faces daunting challenges. UN figures show that women represent 70 percent of the world's poor, own just one percent of titled land, and make up two-thirds of the world's illiterate people. Experts estimate there are between 1.0 and 1.2 billion people around the world who survive on less than one dollar a day, many of whom live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## Books/Reports/Articles on Gender

### State of Women in Balochistan

*Following article by Sanaulah Balcoh was published in The News. The writer highlights the deteriorating state of women in the spheres of education, health and employment in the Province.*

In spite of being commonly liberal, politically conscious, and culturally well-endowed, resource-rich Balochistan is Pakistan's least-developed province with high rates of infant and maternal mortality, poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition. Although suffering due to the inflexible culture, customs and practices throughout Pakistan women, there is a larger story to tell about the state-sponsored discrimination against women in Balochistan. From the beginning Islamabad has outrageously tried to cover up its ill-conceived and discriminatory policies by blaming the Baloch themselves for their appalling state. However, facts and findings on health, education, communication, political empowerment and economic development clearly indicate that human development in Balochistan has been deliberately ignored by successive central governments, to gain strategic benefits out of the vast and geostrategic location of the province and its immense resources. Women are discriminated against in the country at large. But in Balochistan they are discriminated against by state. They have no access to enabling opportunities required for the empowerment of women in any modern and civilized society.

The endless military operation, internal displacement, disappearances, intimidation and the prolonged Baloch-Islamabad conflict are hitting hard the already deprived women in the province. Central government discriminatory policy is not only resulting in slowdown of gender empowerment but its effecting overall social and economic development process in province.

The most devastating consequence of underdevelopment in any society is a high fatality rate. Balochistan has highest infant and maternal mortality ratio (MMR), compared to that many Asian and African underdeveloped countries. For example, **the MMR in Karachi is 281 compared to 673 in rural Balochistan**. Pakistan's chief planning health officer told IRIN in June 2007 that "the maternal mortality ratio is 650 per 100,000 live births in Balochistan - nearly two times the national average," The increasing rate of preventable maternal mortality is a symptom of the larger social injustice of discrimination against women and violation of women's human rights. Thousands of avoidable maternal deaths each year indicate the government's unfaithfulness to domestic and international laws. The expert has indicated the basic lack of safe drinking water and sanitation as major cause of infant and maternal mortality in the province.

The Pakistan Living Standard Measurement Survey (PSLM), 2004-5, identifies sharp a interprovincial disparity with regard to access to safe drinking water. Reports state that 52 percent of the population in Balochistan uses wells and open ponds for drinking water, compared to three per cent in Punjab, 13 percent in Sindh and 35 percent in NWFP. Balochistan's women played a vital political and human rights role during the current conflict in the province. The Baloch Women's Panel very bravely organized a number of protests, rallies and sit-ins in front of the press clubs in Quetta, Karachi and Turbat against arbitrary arrests and for the release of missing Baloch activists.

Interprovincial gender inequality in employment sector is unspeakable. According to State Bank of Pakistan's 2005-06 report **Balochistan and the NWFP have the highest rate of female unemployment rate of 27 percent and 29 percent, compared to seven percent and 20 percent for Punjab and Sindh.**

**A large number of women's vocational and training centres in Punjab make women more capable and confident to qualify for market jobs. Punjab has 111 women's vocational institutes, however Balochistan has only one.**

Due to the lack of girls' schools in the province only **23 percent rural girls are lucky enough to be enrolled in primary as compared to 47 percent in rural Punjab**. In fact, acute poverty at the margin appeared to be hitting hardest at women. As long as women's access to healthcare, education, and training remain limited, prospects for improved social status of female population will remain bleak.

The Social Policy Development Centre 2005 report discovered that the percentage of the population living in a high degree of deprivation stands at 88 percent in Balochistan, 51 percent in the NWFP, 49 per cent in Sindh and 25 percent in Punjab. According to poverty-related reports the percentage of the population living below the poverty line stands at 63 percent in Balochistan, 26 percent in Punjab, 29 percent in the NWFP and 38 percent in Sindh.

No development policy could succeed unless it is based on the needs and participation of people in the process. In Balochistan's case, what people need is socio-economic development, political empowerment, clean drinking water, electricity, practical education, basic health facilities, proper roads and infrastructure connecting rural towns to the main centres. But central government is doing the opposite. The Baloch are subject to extreme

discrimination. No state in the present era singles out its citizen on the basis of region and ethnicity. The regime in Islamabad must respect Baloch rights and stop its systematic discriminatory policies.

### **Women in Muslim World**

*Dr Farrukh Saleem, in his article 'Women in Muslim World,' commented on the situation of women in Muslim-majority countries by referring to Global Gender Gap (GGG) Report.*

Muslims do not treat women right. According to the Global Gender Gap (GGG) report, the planet's ten-worst offenders are: Yemen, Chad, Pakistan, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Benin, Morocco, Turkey, Egypt and Oman. Of the ten, nine are Muslim-majority states. At the other end of the spectrum, the planet's best countries for women to live in are: Sweden, Norway, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, Philippines, Germany, Denmark, Ireland and Spain. Not even one of the top-ten is a Muslim-majority state. GGG collected data from a total of 128 countries to develop a comprehensive, scientific index. The GGG Index is based on four different sub-indices -- namely, economic participation, educational attainment, political empowerment and health -- while each of the sub-indices has half a dozen components. Under economic participation, five of the worst-offenders are: Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Oman and Bahrain. Under educational attainment, the worst-offenders are: Chad, Yemen, Benin and Pakistan. The best: Denmark, United Kingdom, Australia, France and Belgium. Under political empowerment the worst are: Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt and Iran. The best: Sweden, Finland, Norway, Iceland and Spain.

For women, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan comes out as one the worst of countries to live in; there are only two other countries worse off than is Pakistan -- Yemen and Chad. Under economic participation, Pakistan is ranked 126 out of 128. Educational attainment, 123 out of 128. Health, 121 out of 128. Political empowerment, 43 out of 128. Surprisingly, Pakistani women are worse off this year than they were last year.

Al Mamlakah al Arabiyah as Suudiyah, or the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is ranked really low, too. Under economic participation, Saudi Arabia is ranked 127 out of 128. Educational attainment, 87 out of 128. Health, 60 out of 128. Political empowerment, 128 out of 128. Al Jumhuriyah al Yamaniyah, or the Republic of Yemen is worse than both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Under economic participation, Yemen is ranked 128 out of 128. Educational attainment, 127 out of 128. Political empowerment, 127 out of 128. Intriguingly, there is a correlation between poverty and status of women. Some of the worst offenders are also the poorest of the poor (with the exception of oil wealth). Most of the Arab world is far below global averages and conditions, unfortunately, are actually deteriorating -- not improving. Yes, there are a few exceptions. The UAE, for instance, has invested massive resources into educating its women. Bahrain now has a woman parliamentarian.

## Formation of Provincial Government – Punjab

### 353 MPAs Sworn-In

About 353 members comprising 165 members of the PML-N, 106 of the PPP, 86 of the PML-Q, two of the MMA, four of the PML-Functional and two independent members took oath at the inaugural session. Outgoing Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Afzal Sahi in the opening session of the new Provincial Assembly allowed, after resistance of about one hour the PML-N and the PPP, to table two resolutions, paying rich tributes to Benazir Bhutto and condemning the October 12, 1999 military coup of Pervez Musharraf. Earlier, lawmakers refused to take oath till the outgoing speaker assured them that they were being administered oath under the 1973 Constitution. A total of 353 members took oath from the speaker, who congratulated them on becoming part of the House. He said the new assembly should complete its tenure. Rana Iqbal read out PML-N's resolution that the session pays homage to the people of Pakistan who voted for democracy in February 18 elections. He said the session also condemned the humiliating treatment extended to political workers including torture and rigorous imprisonments and forced exile of Nawaz Sharif, Benazir Bhutto, Asif Ali Zardari and Shahbaz Sharif despite contrary orders passed by courts. The session also expressed solidarity with the media and lawyers for their struggle. The session pledged that it would struggle to ensure the supremacy of law, freedom of press and tolerance as well as ending price-hike, nepotism and lawlessness to bring prosperity in the province. The PML-N's resolution was approved with majority vote while the PPP's resolution on the assassination of Benazir Bhutto was passed unanimously. The text of Raja Riaz's resolution said the session paid homage to the sacrifices made by Benazir Bhutto for the sake of democracy and prayed to God to grant her place in heaven. The resolution recommended to the Punjab government to demand the federal government unearth the facts as to the killing of Benazir and carry out the investigation into her killing through the United Nations.

### Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Punjab Assembly elected Rana Muhammad Iqbal as Speaker and Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan as Deputy Speaker on April 11.

The newly-elected Speaker Punjab Assembly, Rana Muhammad Iqbal son of Rana Phool Muhammad Khan was born in Phool Nagar, Karnal district of India, in 1944. Rana Iqbal currently residing in Lambe Jageer, tehsil Pattoki of Kasur district, won the general election-2008 from PP-184, Kasur-10. He received primary education from Phool Nagar High School and secondary education from Government Islamia College, Civil Lines Multan and then education in law from the Punjab University, Lahore. He has been elected to the Punjab Assembly for the fourth time, while his father Rana Phool Khan was elected MPA in the Punjab six times, and has the distinction of being the 'senior-most parliamentarian of Asia.' Rana Iqbal has twice served as chairman district council and once as vice-chairman district council Kasur. He has also been president of Chunian Bar Association and was later appointed as ASP, but resigned from the post in protest against the martial law of Gen Zia-ul-Haq. Rana Iqbal's son Shahzad Iqbal is holding the post of tehsil nazim, district Kasur.

The newly-elect Punjab Assembly's Deputy Speaker Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, son of Rana Abdur Rahim Khan was born in Lahore in 1966. Rana Mashhood Ahmed won the general election-2008 from PP-149 Lahore-13 and was elected to the Punjab Assembly for the second time. He received primary education from Crescent Model School, Lahore and secondary education from Government College Lahore and then law education from Punjab University Lahore. The Deputy Speaker has given his valuable services as Secretary Lahore High Court Bar, President of PML-N Lawyers Forum Punjab and Vice President PML-N Punjab. He contested the Punjab Assembly Speaker's election against Muhammad Afzal Sahi and also vied for Lahore District Nazim slot. Mashhood's grandfather Rana Inayatullah was Member Legislative Assembly of Pakistan. His father Rana Abdur Rahim was Secretary Lahore High Court Bar and Vice chairman of Punjab Bar Council. Mashhood's younger brother Rana Asad is the sitting Secretary of Lahore High Court Bar.

### Chief Minister

Sardar Dost Muhammad Khosa has been elected unopposed as Punjab Chief Minister. Chief Minister, Dost Muhammad Khosa son of Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa was born in D.G. Khan on October 22, 1973. Dost

Muhammad Khosa won the general election-2008 from PP-244 D.G. Khan-5. He received primary education from Aitchison College Lahore and secondary education from Government College Lahore and graduated from Punjab University, Lahore. In his political career, Dost Khosa was first elected as MPA when his father vacated provincial seat after taking oath as Punjab Governor in August 1999. He had also served as UC Nazim of Churratta, D.G.Khan and later as Naib District Nazim D.G. Khan till contest of general election-2008. Dost Muhammad Khosa was PML-N, DG Khan, district President for the last eight years and was arrested many a times during this period on political grounds.

## 14-Member Punjab Cabinet

The first phase of government formation in Punjab was completed on April 22 with 14 ministers, eight of the PML-N and six of the PPP, taking oath of office. The PPP's Parliamentary leader Raja Riaz had earlier taken oath as Senior Minister. Two of the ministers—Rana Sanaullah Khan and Mian Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman—are not members of the Punjab assembly. Under the law they will have to get themselves elected within six months. The coalition government in the province has announced that the cabinet will comprise 35 ministers. It is expected that the rest of ministers will be inducted after by-elections.

The PML-N ministers and their portfolios are:

- |                          |   |                               |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| ▪ Rana Sanaullah Khan    | – | Law and Parliamentary Affairs |
| ▪ Malik Nadeem Kamran    | – | Food                          |
| ▪ Ahmad Ali Oulakh       | – | Agriculture                   |
| ▪ Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman | – | Excise and Taxation           |
| ▪ Iqbal Chunnar          | – | Special Education             |
| ▪ Chaudhry Abdul Ghafoor | – | Trade and Commerce            |
| ▪ Kamran Michael         | – | Minorities                    |

The PPP ministers and their portfolios are:

- |                        |   |                             |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ▪ Tanveer Ashraf Kaira | – | Finance                     |
| ▪ Haji Ishaq           | – | Revenue                     |
| ▪ Neelam Jabbar        | – | Population Welfare          |
| ▪ Ashraf Sohna         | – | Labour and Human Resource   |
| ▪ Ehsanuddin Qureshi   | – | Religious Affairs and Auqaf |
| ▪ Raja Riaz            | – | Irrigation and Power        |

No portfolio has yet been allocated to PPP ministers, Tanveerul Islam and Farooq Yousuf Ghurki.

## Formation of Provincial Government – Sindh

### 158 Sindh MPAs Take Oath

The first session of the new Sindh Assembly unanimously passed three resolutions presented by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) on 5 April after swearing in 158 newly elected MPAs. Senior PPP leaders Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Syed Qaim Ali Shah and Pir Mazharul Haq jointly presented the first resolution, saying that the Sindh government should approach the Federal Government for an investigation into the late Benazir Bhutto's assassination. Qaim Ali Shah presented the second resolution, and asked the Sindh government to approach the federal government, seeking an apology from the National Assembly for the "judicial murder" of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Tariq Aarain and Jam Tamachi jointly presented the third resolution, saying that in light of the services Benazir Bhutto had rendered for democracy, Nawabshah district should be renamed as Shaheed Benazir Bhutto district.

### Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Peoples Party's Nisar Ahmad Khuhro and Shehla Raza have taken the oath as Speaker and Deputy Speaker Sindh on April 7. Both have been elected unopposed as Sindh Assembly Speaker and Deputy Speaker respectively. Nisar Ahmad Khuhro is the 14th Speaker and Shehla Raza 15th Deputy Speaker of Sindh Assembly. PPP candidate for the office of Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah is also likely to be elected unopposed.

### Chief Minister

Syed Qaim Ali Shah, who took oath as 23<sup>rd</sup> Chief Minister of Sindh for the second time was born in 1935 in Khairpur and had his early education from there. Mr. Shah is an important personality of the Jilani family of Khairpur. He had his graduation and then did LL.B from Karachi and joined the legal profession. He remained Chairman District Council during the era of President Ayub Khan and joined PPP in 1967 along with founder

members. He became Chief Minister of Sindh in 1988. He could not win a seat in 1997 but was elected as Senator. He was elected to Sindh Assembly for the sixth time. Syed Qaim Ali Shah remained Minister during the government of Z.A. Bhutto. He suffered jail terms during the tenures of General Zia-ul-Huq, Jam Sadiq Ali and Liaquat Ali Jatoi.

## Sindh Cabinet

An initial 21-member Sindh cabinet took oath at the Governor House here on 11 April. Sindh Governor Dr Ishrat-ul-Ebad Khan administered the oath at an impressive ceremony held at the Darbar Hall of the Governor House.

The new cabinet includes four women ministers, two ministers from minority members and one from the Awami National Party (ANP). It comprises:

- |                              |   |  |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| ▪ Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq          | – | Senior Minister with portfolios of Education and Literacy, Criminal Prosecution Service, |
| ▪ Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Mirza     | – | Home, Prisons, Forest and Wildlife   |
| ▪ Syed Ali Nawaz Shah        | – | Agriculture  |
| ▪ Manzoor Hussain Wassan     | – | Works and Services   |
| ▪ Jam Saifullah Khan Dharejo | – | Irrigation and Power   |
| ▪ Murad Ali Shah             | – | Revenue and Relief excluding L.U.  |
| ▪ Mir Nadir Ali Magsi        | – | Food   |
| ▪ Agha Siraj Khan Durani     | – | Local Government   |
| ▪ Muhammad Ayaz Soomro       | – | Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs                                     |
| ▪ Muhammad Sajid Jokhio      | – | Zakat, Ushr and Religious Affairs  |
| ▪ Akhtar Hussain Jadoon      | – | Transport  |
| ▪ Jam Mahtab Hussain Dahar   | – | Population Welfare   |
| ▪ Amir Nawab                 | – | Labour   |
| ▪ Abdul Haque Bhurt          | – | Livestock  |
| ▪ Mukesh Kumar               | – | Excise and Taxation  |
| ▪ Ms. Sassui Palijo          | – | Culture and Tourism  |
| ▪ Ms. Shazia Mari            | – | Information  |
| ▪ Ms. Nargis N.D. Khan       | – | Social Welfare   |
| ▪ Ms. Tauqeer Fatima Bhutto  | – | Women Development  |
| ▪ Abdul Jalil Memon          | – | Cooperation  |
| ▪ Dr. Daya Ram               | – | Minority Affairs   |

The Pakistan People's Party and Muttahida Qaumi Movement have finalized a power-sharing formula, on April 30, under which the **MQM will join the Sindh government with 13 ministers, one adviser and one special assistant. With the induction of the MQM ministers, the strength of the Sindh cabinet would reach 38, including four advisers.** The portfolios allotted to MQM ministers include: health, industries and commerce, information technology, environment and alternate energy, sports, youth affairs, rural development, public health engineering, Auqaf, bureau of supply and prices and human rights. Two portfolios are yet to be decided.

## Formation of Provincial Government – NWFP

### Chief Minister

Ameer Haider Khan Hoti is the 21<sup>st</sup> Chief Minister of NWFP, who took on the on April 02, 2008. The 37 years old Hoti was born on February 5, 1971 in Mardan. He is the son of Former Federal Minister Azam Khan Hoti. He passed his intermediate exam from historic Aitchison College Lahore in 1990 and did his graduation from Edwards College Peshawar in 1992. He is the grand son of late Khudai Khidmatgar and right hand man of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan commonly known as "Baacha Khan". He is the nephew of ANP Chief Asfandyar Wali Khan as such late Khan Abdul Wali Khan was his maternal grand father. He started his political carrier as ANP organizer in Mardan city. Later he became the Senior Vice President of the party in Mardan District. He was inducted as joint secretary general in the Provincial Cabinet of the party and later became Provincial Deputy Secretary General of the party. He was holding this office till his elevation to the post of Chief Minister. He contested for the provincial assembly seat in 2002 but lost the election. He is married to the daughter of ANP leader Sareer Khan of Mardan. He is the first Chief Minister from ANP after partition as the cabinet of Doctor Khan Sahib was dismissed soon

after the creation of Pakistan in 1947. He is the third Chief Minister, the earlier two being Lt.Gen.Fazle Haq (late) and Mir Afzal Khan (late).

## NWFP Cabinet

Initially, 21 Ministers, including a woman, nominated by the Awami National Party (ANP) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in their coalition government in the NWFP were administered oath by Governor NWFP Owais Ahmad Ghani on 2 April. NWFP Chief Minister Amir Haider Hoti, central and provincial leaders and elected representatives from various parties attended the much-awaited oath-taking ceremony. The PML-N leadership, which earlier refused two "less important" ministries offered by the ANP and PPP in the cabinet, was conspicuous by its absence. Later five more NWFP ministers sworn-in and the number of Ministers reached to 26.

▪ Bashir Ahmed Bilour	–	Local Government, Election and Rural Development
▪ Rahim Dad Khan	–	Planning & Development
▪ Arbab Muhammad Ayub Jan	–	Agriculture
▪ Muhammad Ayub Khan Ashari	–	Science & Technology and Information Technology
▪ Barrister Arshad Abdullah	–	Law, Parliamentary Affairs & Human Rights
▪ Muhammad Hamayun Khan	–	Irrigation and Power
▪ Liaqat Ali Shabab	–	Excise and Taxation
▪ Mehmud Zeb Khan	–	Revenue and Estate
▪ Mian Iftikhar Hussain	–	Information, Public Relations & Inter-Provincial Coordination
▪ Mian Nisar Gul	–	Prisons
▪ Namroz Khan	–	Auqaf, Haj, Religious and Minority Affairs
▪ Saleem Khan	–	Population Welfare
▪ Sardar Hussain Babak	–	Schools & Literacy
▪ Syed Aqil Shah	–	Sports, Culture, Tourism and Museum
▪ Sitara Ayaz	–	Social Welfare and Women's Development
▪ Syed Ahmed Hussain Shah	–	Industries, Commerce, Mineral Development and Technical Education
▪ Syed Wajid Ali Khan	–	Environment
▪ Muhammad Zarshaid	–	Zakat and Ushr
▪ Syed Zahir Ali Shah	–	Health
▪ Muhammad Shujaa Khan	–	Food
▪ Sher Azam Khan	–	Labour

The five Ministers, who took oath, included:

▪ Pervez Khattak	--	Finance
▪ Habibur Rehman Tanoli	--	Fisheries
▪ Qazi Muhammad Asad Khan	--	Higher Education
▪ Amjad Khan Afridi	--	Housing & Planning
▪ Hidayatullah Khan	--	Livestock

## Formation of Provincial Government – Balochistan

### Balochistan Assembly Sworn-In

Newly elected 62 members of the 9th provincial assembly took the oath on 7<sup>th</sup> April. The outgoing Speaker, Jamal Shah Kakar, administered oath to the members of the house. Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) appeared as the only candidate for the post of the Chief Minister after winning the support of independent candidates, MMA, BNP(A), PML-Q (Ham Khiyal Group) and ANP members for power-sharing and forming a coalition government in the province.

However, finally the PML-Q was divided over the nomination of leadership in the house when its special committee nominated Shaikh Jaffar Mandokhel as the Leader of the House. Later, 12 members of the PML-Q (Ham Khiyal Group), led by Ex-Deputy Speaker Muhammad Aslam Bhutani, announced their support to the PPP for forming a coalition government. Lastly, the PML-Q nominee for parliamentary leader Shaikh Jaffar Mandokhel also announced his support to the PPP for forming a coalition government in the province. Now, the PPP has the

support of 61 members out of 65 (51 general seats and 14 reserved seats including three for minorities and 11 for women) in the assembly.

## Speaker and Deputy Speaker

On 8<sup>th</sup> April, Muhammad Aslam Bhotani and Syed Matiullah Agha took oath as new Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Baluchistan Assembly. Former Balochistan Assembly Speaker Jamal Shah Kakar administered the oath to Aslam Bhotani. Newly elected Speaker Aslam Bhotani administered oath to newly elected Deputy Speaker Syed Matiullah Agha. Both were elected unopposed.

## Chief Minister

Chief Minister Balochistan, Nawab Aslam Raisani is son of late-Nawab Ghaus Bakhsh Raisani who served as Governor Balochistan and Federal Minister. Aslam Raisani was born on July 5, 1955. He got education from Quetta and he obtained MA degree in Political Science from University of Balochistan. He was appointed as DSP in police after completion of his education and later resigned from his job. He became tribal head of his Raisani tribe after death of his father and became Chief of Sarawan. He is also member of supreme council of Baloch Qawmi Jirga. His father became provincial president of PPP in 1972 and he himself joined the PPP in 1994. He was elected as member of Balochistan Assembly in 1988, 1990, 1993 and 2002 and also remained provincial senior minister and provincial finance minister. It is for the fifth time he has been elected member of the House. He has also been serving as President Balochistan Chamber of Agriculture for the last 12 years. Nawab Aslam Raisani is a seasoned politician and has much awareness about the tribal traditions of the province.

## Balochistan Cabinet

The largest-ever Balochistan cabinet, comprising 38 members, was sworn in on April 23. Governor Balochistan Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi administered oath to the members of the cabinet, which has representation of six parliamentary groups, besides independent MPAs. The major chunk of the ministries went to the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Q and its like-minded group.

Baloch-istan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani on April 26 inducted three more ministers into his cabinet. Governor Zulfiqar Ali Magsi administered the oath to the ministers, Mohammad Amin of the PPP, Masood Ahmed Luni of the PML-Q and Capt (retd) Abdul Khaliq of PML-N. **The number of Balochistan cabinet members has reached 41.** The governor also appointed Dr Ruqiyah Saeed Hashmi of the PML-Q as special assistant to the Chief Minister. Following Ministers have been allotted portfolios so far:

▪ Maulana Abdul Wasay	–	Senior Minister for Planning and Development
▪ Maulana Abdul Bari	–	Public Health
▪ Haji Aunullah Shams	–	Health
▪ Maulana Muhammad Sarwar	–	Labour and Power
▪ Maulana Abdul Samad	–	Forest and Wildlife
▪ Haji Muhammad Nawaz	–	Balochistan Development Authority
▪ Zumruk Khan	–	Revenue
▪ Abdul Khaliq Bashir Dost	–	Local Government
▪ Syed Ehsan Shah	–	Industries
▪ Mir Asadullah Baloch	–	Agriculture
▪ Mir Zafarullah Zehri	–	Home and Tribal Affairs
▪ Ghulam Jan Baloch	–	Environment
▪ Mir Asghar Ali Rind	–	Social Welfare
▪ Mir Sadiq Umrani	--	Communication and Works Department
▪ Shafiq Ahmed Khan	--	Education
▪ Yunus Malazai	--	Information
▪ Ali Madad Jattak	--	Food
▪ Agha Irfan Karim	--	Zakkat
▪ Mohammad Ismaeel Gujjar	--	Quetta Development Authority
▪ Ms Ghazala Gola	--	Minorities Affairs
▪ Aslam Bizenjo	--	Irrigation
▪ Abdul Rehman Mengal	--	Mines & Minerals
▪ Mir Asim Kurd	--	Without Portfolio (will look after the affairs of finance but the portfolio will remain with the Chief Minister)

The provincial cabinet has seen three very close relatives. They are Agha Irfan Karim, his wife Mrs Rubina Irfan and his sister, Mrs Shama Perveen Magsi, the wife of Governor Balochistan. Similarly, there are two real brothers, Sardar Sanaullah Zehri and Mir Zafarullah Zehri.

## Formation of NA Committees

### 46 NA Committees Constituted

Taking the number of National Assembly standing committees to 46, the lower house, on April 24, approved reconstitution of 37 more committees despite informal dissent by the opposition. The nominations for nine standing committees have already been approved during earlier days of the ongoing 4th session. The nominations for the committees have yet to be decided.

Federal Law Minister Farooq A Naik moved the nominations for 37 committees, which was approved by Speaker Fahmida Mirza. The deputy opposition leader Ameer Muqam said the members were nominated without their consultation.

The standing committees which have been reconstituted included committees for **Cabinet Secretariat, Commerce, Communications, Culture, Defence, Defence Production, Economics Affairs and Statistics, Education, Environment, Food and Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Health, House and Library, Housing and Works, Industries and Production, Information Technology, Interior, Labour, manpower and Overseas Pakistanis, Local Government and Rural Development, Minorities, Narcotics Control, Parliamentary Affairs, Petroleum and Natural Resources, Planning and Development, Population Welfare, Ports and Shipping, Railways, Religious Affairs, Zakat and Ushr, Rules of Procedure and Privileges, Social Welfare and Special Education, Sports, Textile Industries, Tourism, Water and Power, Women's Development and Committee of NA Secretariat.**

Already approved committees included **Finance and Revenue, Information and Broadcasting, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas, Law and Justice, Privatization and Investment, Public Accounts, Science and Technology, States and Frontier Regions and Youth Affairs.**

## Women Parliamentarians

### Roundtable with Directly Elected Women Parliamentarians

A Roundtable with Directly Elected Women Parliamentarians was organized by The Researchers on April 16, 2008. The participants included Azra Fazal Pecheho (PPP), Shamshad Sattar Bachani (PPP), Robina Shaheen Watto (INDP), Mrs. Umer Farooq (PML-N), Saira Afzal Tarar (PML-N) and Naghma Mushtaq Lang (PML-Q).

Interestingly, it was revealed during the discussion that not even a single woman candidate was able to win general seats without having a strong political family background during elections 2008. Rejecting the demand of reserving party tickets for women to contest on general seats, women parliamentarians said that they should make themselves politically active in order to compete with men. They said that women presently in politics were giving a strong message that they could be successful in politics. The participants said that politics was a game of winning and no party could afford to do experimentation at the time of elections. The same rule applies to men as well, they said. All the political parties could do was to let them contest from seats they were destined not to lose in order to give newcomers an exposure to mass politics, they added. The roundtable was attended by representatives of major political parties who shared their interesting experiences while expressing their views on electoral process, political parties, socio-cultural paradigm and religious dynamics. The women parliamentarians were of the opinion that it was really hard for a woman to enter politics without having a strong political background.

**Dr. Azra Fazal Pechecho** said that women contesting the election had to oblige the moral standards set by the society otherwise the society didn't accept them. She said having a strong political background; her political struggle was not much difficult as it could be otherwise. Pechecho said she also benefited by her age factor, as it was easier for a women with older age to campaign compared to a young contestant. She said absence of National Identity Cards (NIC) usually stopped women from casting their votes. She complained that the country's far-flung less developed areas didn't have an access to the NADRA swift centres nor did the NADRA mobile vans visit them. She said she would ensure that at least NADRA mobile vans visit the outreach areas frequently.

**Saira Afzal Tarar** was of the view that religion never asked women not to participate in politics but it sets a code of conduct for men and women. Saira said that she never addressed men directly other than one occasion when Nawaz Sharif was visiting her constituency. She said people did not care about gender differences but they wanted competent and honest representatives capable of solving their problems. She said women were in no way inferior to men. Citing the example of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Fehmida Mirza, she said her performance had been better than that of her predecessor. The daughter-in-law of former President Rafiq Tarar stressed that religious values should not be set aside.

**Shamshad Sattar Bachani** briefed the participants that they would focus on adult literacy among women so that they could at least read a newspaper and be aware of the happenings.

**Naghma Mushtaq Lang** said that the elected people should work for the welfare of the people irrespective of their party. PML-Q MPA from Multan spoke about problems of her constituency. She said that her area lacked basic amenities like health, education, drinking water. She said her area, being one of the most undeveloped in the country, faced problems like robberies, drug addiction and rapes. She urged the government to take urgent steps to resolve these issues.

Independent MPA **Robina Shaheen Wattoo** told that in the beginning she had been advised not to go out for her election campaign because people would vote for her because of her father, Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo. But she decided to run her campaign herself. She said that people respected me and reposed their trust in me. This dispels the perception that people are against women's participation in politics. She criticized the previous government's policies and especially mentioned a literacy campaign launched by the former Punjab chief minister. She said illiteracy was still rampant in the province and the campaign had achieved nothing. Robina Shaheen Wattoo stressed the need for sponsoring the high level education of students.

**Mrs. Umar Farooq**, a PML-N MPA from Wah, highlighted that her constituency had the highest literacy ratio in the country but even highly-educated girls faced unemployment. She said that she never went out for campaigning before elections.

While presenting the observations of the preliminary report, The Researchers Executive Director Aazar Ayaz said that 70 percent of women contestants belong to political houses and replacing their male family member for one reason or the other. Mr. Aazar Ayaz said that women's voting preference was political party rather than a female candidate while voting for a candidate was a family decision.

## By-Elections

### Schedule for By-Elections

S. No.	EVENTS	DATES
1	Dates for <b>filing of nomination papers</b> with the Returning Officers by the candidates	15-4-2008 to 06-5-2008
2	Dates for <b>Scrutiny</b> of nomination papers by the Returning Officers	07-5-2008 to 13-5-2008
3	Last date for <b>filing of appeals</b> against decisions of the Returning Officers rejecting/accepting nomination papers	17-5-2008
4	Last date for <b>deciding appeals</b> by the Tribunals	24-5-2008
5	Last date for <b>withdrawal</b> of candidature	26-5-2008
6	Publication of <b>revised list</b> of candidates	26-5-2008
7	<b>Polling Day</b>	18-6-2008

By elections will be held on following National and Provincial Assemblies constituencies:

### **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES**

NA-119 Lahore-II, NA-207 Larkana-cum-Shikarpur-cum-Kamber Shahdadkot (Old Larkana-IV), NA-11 Mardan-III  
NA-52 Rawalpindi-III, NA-55 Rawalpindi-VI, NA-123 Lahore-VI, NA-131 Sheikhpura-I, NA-147 Okara-V

### **PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES CONSTITUENCIES**

**PUNJAB:** PP-10 Rawalpindi-X, PP-48 Bhakkar-II, PP-59 Faisalabad-IX, PP-70 Faisalabad-XX, PP-99 Gujranwala-IX, PP-107 Hafizabad-III, PP-118 M.B Din-III, PP-124 Sialkot-IV, PP-141 Lahore-V, PP-154 Lahore-XVIII, PP-171 Nankana Sahib-II (Old Sheikhpura-X), PP-219 Khanewal-VIII, PP-229 Pakpattan-III, PP-243 D.G.Khan-IV, PP-258 Muzaffargarh-VIII, PP-277 Bahawalnagar-I, PP-295 R.Y Khan-XI

**SINDH:** PS-30 Khairpur-II, PS-44 Matiari-cum-Hyderabad (old Hyderabad-II), PS-62 Tharparkar-III

**NWFP:** PF-20 Charsadda-IV, PF-45 Abbottabad-II, PF-59 Battagram-I, PF-75 Lakki Marwat-II, PF-81 Swat-II, PF-91 Upper Dir-I, PF-92 Upper Dir-II

**BALUCHISTAN:** PB-9 Pishin-II, PB-32 Jhal (old Kachhi-III), PB-44 Lasbela-I

## **Election Observers**

### **EU asks Pakistan to Carry-Out Electoral Reforms – EU Final Report**

The European Union has urged Pakistan to undertake electoral reforms as a matter of priority and said that the February 18 polls fell short of international standards for genuine democratic elections. Chief observer of the EU Election Observation Mission and Member of European Parliament (MEP) Michael Gahler said on April 16 while launching the final assessment report on the elections that although the Feb 2008 elections were competitive and the results were accepted, there are enduring problems with the framework and conditions for elections in Pakistan.

The 70-page report examines the complete electoral process and recommends 83 steps for improving the election framework and conditions. The EU mission was in Pakistan from December 9, 2007 to March 10 this year to observe the pre-poll activities, voting process, consolidation of results, and post-election developments, including complaints and appeals and assess them on the basis of international standards. The EU had earlier issued a preliminary report immediately after the elections in which it pointed out that level-playing field had not been provided to opposition candidates and state resources had been misused in favour of candidates belonging to former ruling parties.

Following are some of the recommendations made in EU report:

- The ECP should develop transparency in all of its operations (as acknowledged as an essential part of democratic development in UN General Assembly resolution on promoting and consolidating democracy).  
In particular:
  - The ECP should formalise and publicize a schedule of its meetings and all resulting decisions should be immediately publicly available.
  - All internal instructions issued should be immediately publicly available.
  - Information from provinces, districts and constituencies should be centrally gathered and made publicly available on the internet as well as at the local level (for example complaints lodged, numbers of postal ballot applications, polling station locations, polling station results).
  - The ECP website should be further developed and kept fully up-to-date.
- The ECP should produce an accurate and complete electoral roll, and consider the possibility of this being subject to continuous updating. The ECP should work with National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) to ensure incorporation of any entries not captured through its own enumeration (either from a new enumeration or the one undertaken for the Electoral Roll 07). The data captured should be subject to a comprehensive nationwide check for duplicates.
- During the next delimitation exercise, the ECP should ensure that newly delimited constituencies are approximately equal in size, in order to uphold the principle of equal suffrage.

- An extensive voter education programme should be conducted by the ECP ahead of the registration display period and election day to ensure that voters are fully aware of their rights and opportunities. This should particularly target groups traditionally marginalized from the process, such as women and young people.
- Freedom of movement, association, assembly and expression should be respected with any restrictions being limited, proportional and only for reasons of strict necessity, and such reasons should be transparently conveyed.
- The media should cover elections and political events more generally, with professionalism and compliance with ethical standards. Sources and facts should be verified before publication and inaccuracies should be promptly corrected. Such professionalism could be increased through the development of training programmes and academic curricula.
- Civil society should play a more substantial role in civic and voter education, especially in rural areas and in regards to female participation. Civil society could increase awareness of the Code of Conduct with special emphasis on parts of the process that have traditionally been problematic, such as the role of nazims and local government officials.

Detailed report is available on following URL:

[http://www.eueompakistan.org/PDF/final%20report/EU\\_EOM\\_Pakistan\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.eueompakistan.org/PDF/final%20report/EU_EOM_Pakistan_Final_Report.pdf)

## Governance at Large

### Laws, Ordinances Promulgated

#### **SC Strikes Down Graduation Bar**

The Supreme Court rescinded the condition of graduation for contesting the general elections, declaring it ultra vires of the fundamental rights laid down in the Constitution. A seven-member larger bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Abdul Hameed Dogar, while hearing the petition filed against the condition of graduation degree, abolished it by declaring it as against the fundamental rights guaranteed in the Constitution. The bench in its short order declared the graduation condition for contesting the general elections as invalid and inconsistent with Article 17 (freedom of association) and Article 25 (equality of citizens) of the Constitution. Justice Faqir Mohammad Khokhar, Justice Ejazul Hassan, Justice Mohammad Musa K Leghari, Justice Chaudhry Ejaz Yousuf, Justice Syed Sakhi Hussain Bukhari and Justice Syed Zawwar Hussain Jaffery were other members of the bench. Muhammad Nasir Mehmud and Shameer Ahmed had challenged the condition of graduation for contesting the general elections in the apex court under Article 184(3) of the Constitution, making federation of Pakistan through the secretary, ministry of law and justice and human rights division as respondents. During the proceedings, Attorney-General Malik Muhammad Qayyum argued that the condition of graduation for contesting the general elections did not exist in any democratic country. He contended that it was against the democratic norms; thus, it be repealed. He said it was discriminatory in nature because it had created a class within the society by disenfranchising 97 percent of the people.

Following is the text of the short order issued on 21 April by a seven-member larger bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Abdul Hameed Dogar in a petition against the restriction of graduation for contesting the parliamentary elections:

“For reasons to be recorded later, this petition under Article 184(3) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 is allowed. The provisions of Article 8-A of the Conduct of General Election Order, 2002 (Chief Executive’s Order No. 7 of 2002) and Clause (cc) of Subsection (1) of Section 99 of the Representation of the People’s Act, 1976, which lay down that a person shall not be qualified to be elected or chosen as a member of the Majlis-e-Shura (parliament) or a provincial assembly unless he is at least a graduate, possessing a bachelor degree in any discipline or any degree recognised as equivalent by the University Grants Commission under the University Grants Commission Act, 1974 or any other law for the time being in force are declared to be void prospectively on account of their being inconsistent with Articles 17 and 25 of the Constitution”.

In 2002, through Article 8(A) of the Chief Executive Order No 17, Section 99 (1)(CC) was inserted into the Representation of Peoples Act 1976, requiring a contesting candidate to be at least a graduate in any discipline or holder of a degree recognized by the Higher Education Commission. The graduation condition had barred a large number of seasoned politicians to contest the election.

#### **Cabinet Move to Repeal Changes in PEMRA Ordinance**

The Federal Cabinet approved, on April 9, a draft law repealing amendments made to the PEMRA Ordinance on November 3 last year and restoring it in its original position.

In reply to a question about the PEMRA Ordinance, the minister said that PEMRA was a regulatory body which would no more take actions like blocking television channels, stopping live telecast of events or forcing cable operators to take such actions or confiscating their equipment. She claimed that neither her ministry nor PEMRA had ordered the suspension of live telecast of some private TV channels in Karachi a couple of days ago, adding that some cable operators, because of ‘some reservations’ had done it on their own.

#### **Bill to Amend Controversial SPSC Law Adopted**

The Sindh Assembly, in its first regular session, adopted the Sindh Public Service Commission (Amendment) Bill 2008 with a majority after a brief discussion. The Sindh Public Service Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2008, was taken up for consideration after the motion was carried following the dispensation of Rules 84, 85 and 86. Syed Sardar Ahmad, leader of the MQM’s parliamentary party, raised an objection on Sub-section (2) of Section 4,

whereby the “government was armed with the discretion to reconstitute the commission and reappoint the chairman and the members within a period of 30 days from the date on which this sub-section comes into force.”

In the amendment bill there are four sections:

1. The act may be called the Sindh Public Service Commission (Amendment) Act, 2008 and shall come into force at once.
2. In the Sindh Public Service Commission Act, 1989, hereafter called the said Act, Clause (bb) of section, shall be omitted.
3. Throughout the Act, for the word “governor,” the word “government” shall be substituted.
4. In the said Act, for Sub-section (2) of Section 4, the following shall be substituted:  
“(2) The chairman or a member shall hold office for a single non-renewable term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office; provided that the government may, in its discretion, reconstitute the commission and reappoint the chairman and the members within a period of 30 days from the date on which this sub-section comes into force.”

After the third reading, when the bill was put to the vote, it was passed by a majority.

### **Draft National Youth Policy 2008 Finalized**

Youth Affairs Ministry has finalized draft National Youth Policy 2008 this month after hectic efforts of 17 years as the preparation of the draft started in 1990. The 26-page youth policy covers all segments of rural and urban youths, which are 27 percent of total population.

The policy set out following **14 main principles**.

- The first principle is about instilling a sense of pride in youth through awareness of history, national heritage and achievements, and motivation for competition.
- Character building is the second principle, which envisages that the youth should adopt Islamic values, ideology of the country, sense of good citizenship, and high standards of morality, gender equality, laws and religion.
- National integration through friendship, tolerance and mutual understanding is the third principle.
- Promotion of sports and intellectual development through scholarships for rural areas and mainstreaming of madrassas are the fourth and fifth principles.
- The sixth principle suggests income generation for youth through skill development, entrepreneurship and micro finance.
- Then comes the youth health and social volunteerism.
- The policy also calls for incentives to facilitate talented youth, arrange their marriages, offer incentives to the handicapped, and assist marginalized and vulnerable youth.
- It says that youths should be appointed as ambassadors in foreign countries and councillors in local governments.

**Organizational structure:** An organizational structure has been built for implementation of the policy. According to this structure, the National Youth Council (NYC) will head the implementation process. The council consists of the prime ministers of Pakistan and AJK, governors and chief ministers of four provinces, youth affairs minister, two representatives of NGOs and five of youth. The Youth Affairs Ministry will work as a catalyst and co-ordinator between the NYC and ministries of labour and manpower, health, sports, culture, education, population welfare, narcotics control, information, women development, social welfare and special education besides NGOs, philanthropists, and provincial youth councils.

**National Youth Fund:** The draft envisages that philanthropists, corporations and NGOs would contribute to build National Youth Fund (NYF), which would have seed money from the government, to implement the youth policy.

**Critics:** Experts feared that involvement of so many ministries would make implementation of the policy next to impossible. Environment Minister Hameedullah Jan Afridi told Daily Times that the centre had little control over provinces, which caused failure of policies in general. A senior bureaucrat said monitoring and accountability were vital to make any policy a success. She advised that the Youth Affairs Ministry should run a pilot project at first before implementing the youth policy.

Others say basic role of NGOs is capacity building but they fail to do so because of shortage of funds and other problems.

### **NWFP Governor Amends Code of Criminal Procedure Ordinance**

The NWFP governor has transferred some important executive powers of district nazims to District Coordination Officers (DCOs) by amending the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). According to official sources, Governor Owais Ahmad Ghani had promulgated the Code of Criminal Procedure (NWFP) Amendment Ordinance, 2008, on March 6, transferring powers enjoyed by the district nazims under Section 144 of the CrPC, 1898, to DCOs. A notification to the effect had been issued on March 22.

Under the Constitution, an ordinance issued by the governor remains in force for three months. It is now for the new provincial government to decide whether to retain the amendments or revoke them. Prior to the introduction of the devolution of power plan in 2001, executive powers were exercised by deputy commissioners (district magistrates) and sub-divisional magistrates, etc. However, amendments made to the Constitution in August, 2001, empowered district nazims to issue orders under Section 144 on written recommendations of district superintendent of police or executive district officer. The amended ordinance states that words 'district nazim' wherever occurring shall be substituted with the DCO. Likewise, in sub-section (6) of the Section 144, the words 'consecutive days and not more than seven days in a month' have been substituted with the 'months'. After this amendment, an order issued by the DCO under this section could remain in force for two months. Previously, a nazim's orders were supposed to remain in force for seven consecutive days in a month. The sources said that the amendments had been necessitated by law and order situation in the province. They said that although nazims enjoyed powers under Section 144, they were reluctant to use them because of political compulsions.

Although the amendments are being portrayed as a step aimed at improving the law and order situation, these are being viewed in official circles as a move towards gradual restoration of the defunct system of executive magistracy in the province. The Governor had earlier appointed three regional coordination officers (RCOs) on the pattern of defunct commissioners. The RCOs have been given sweeping powers and all DCOs, political agents and deputy inspectors general (DIGs) of police have been placed under them. The nazims, who used to demand more financial and administrative authority and raised voices against the non-implementation of the Local Government Ordinance (LGO-2001) in the past, did not appear to have been upset by the amendments.

## **New Government & Governance Issues**

### **Future of Local Government System**

#### **LG Set-Up to Get 'Colonial Blend'**

After finding it not viable, the Punjab government intends to rehash the local government system by reducing powers of nazims and equipping the field administrative machinery with management and magisterial powers to recreate a deliverable chain of command from top to the bottom. And in view of this, it is posting officers as DCOs and DDORs who could immediately start delivering under the proposed administrative system as soon as it is introduced. The local government system introduced by President Pervez Musharraf in the name of devolution of power cannot be amended without his approval at the moment. And officials believe that this would now be possible after the adoption of the constitutional package the federal government intends to introduce for striking a balance between powers of the president and the parliament.

The new team of top officials in Punjab, put in place before the induction of the PML-N government, considers the LG system the mother of all ills the country in general and the province in particular are facing at the moment. They say the system abolished the colonial magistracy system without providing an alternative management system. This allowed mushrooming of problems without leaving anyone to tackle them as a basic responsibility.

The DDORs will be given the powers of the defunct assistant commissioners and the DCOs of the defunct deputy commissioners. Regional coordination officers will also be introduced to control DCOs in the defunct divisions. They will act like the defunct divisional commissioners and also write annual confidential reports (ACRs) of the DIG range and respective DCOs. These posts have already been created by the NWFP. The other types of DDOs are like the staff officers of the DCOs working as the defunct ADCGs. And therefore, they will most probably continue to function in their present form.

## **Punjab to Seal Local Governments' Record**

The Punjab cabinet has decided to seal the record and freeze accounts of all district, tehsil and union councils in the province for a special audit. The cabinet, in its first meeting held on April 23,, also decided to launch a crackdown on proclaimed offenders in various cities, particularly in Gujrat, and to strictly enforce the ban on serving more than one dish at weddings. Chief Minister Dost Mohammad Khosa presided over the meeting. Cabinet was informed that none of the local councils had followed the standard accounting practice while spending billions of rupees since their inception in 2002, and that the local audit system had ignored prescribed rules and procedures. No district government had appointed internal auditors, which was mandatory under the Local Government Ordinance. The purpose of the special audit would be to recover embezzled funds and punish the corrupt. Local government system could also be declared unviable and a source of corruption and mismanagement. They said the cabinet also felt that it was necessary to crack down on criminals because Punjab appeared to have become a safe haven for them. Briefing journalists on the meeting, Law Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan and Finance Minister Tanvir Ashraf Kaira said that the local councils had become a symbol of corruption. The audit, to cover the period from 2002 to date, would not affect ongoing schemes. The ministers said the decision to launch the crackdown on proclaimed offenders had been taken to make the people feel secure. Efficient police officers would be given full opportunity to deliver while those posted on the basis of personal likings would be transferred. The ministers said the flour crisis was the result of an artificial shortage which would be overcome to a large extent by curbing hoarding and smuggling. Honest and hardworking officials would be posted in border districts to control wheat and flour smuggling. They appealed to the people and media to identify elements involved in hoarding wheat and flour and said there was a proposal to reward individuals providing such information. The ministers said the power crisis would be resolved before next summer and steps would be taken to reduce loadshedding. They said instructions had been issued to review cases registered on political grounds by the previous government so that they could be withdrawn. The ministers said the caretaker provincial government was a continuation of the PML-Q rule and accused it of making illegal transfers and postings and protecting its cronies. Such steps, they added, were bound to be reversed.

## **Local Government Record Sealed in Attock**

On the directives of the Punjab government, the district administration has sealed the record of all district and tehsil governments for scrutiny, it has been learnt. The entire record of district government and tehsil municipal administrations of Attock, Jand, Hazro, Hasanabdal, Pindigheb and Fatehjang have been sealed to investigate alleged corruption, particularly in the affairs of development projects and recruitments. The move has upset the district and tehsil nazims, as they cannot now interfere in the record of their respective offices, besides paralysing their activity. Besides sealing of the record, the district and tehsil nazims are also facing a cool response from the functionaries of district administration as most of their decisions are not being entertained. The executive district officer revenue has revised his decision regarding promotions of officials, while the newly-appointed district coordination officer has also declared some development projects of the district government substandard and proposed the concerned quarters of Punjab government for detail inquiry. The nazims and their blue-eyed people would defiantly face tough situation from the district administration in the coming days, sources added.

## **Bilour says Local Government System to be Amended**

NWFP Senior Minister Bashir Ahmed Bilour, on April 23, made clear the government had no plan to abolish local government system rather amendments would be made to make it more viable. He expressed these views while addressing the business community during his visit to Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. SCCI President Mohammad Asif presided the meeting while a large number of industrialists, traders and former presidents of the body were also present on the occasion besides high-ranking officials of the NWFP government.

## **Restoration of Sacked Judges**

### **Deadline on Judges Restoration – A Chronology of Events during April**

A chronology of events leading to the deadline given by lawyers to reinstate deposed judges is given below.

April 1, 2008: Deposed Judge of Supreme Court Justice (retd) Khalil-ur-Rehman Ramday lauds lawyers' Movement while addressing Lahore Bar.

April 2: Justice (Retd) Wajih-ud-Din said that Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry should not have called on PPPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari.

April 3: Summary sent to Law Ministry to revoke Nov 3, laws.

April 4: Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani said government is taking steps for independent judiciary.

April 4: Aitzaz announced that Justice (retd) Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry will not address any bar during the 30 days deadline given for the judges' restoration.

April 6: Haji Saifullah a senior politician in an interview stated that 'Referendum can restore judges.

April 7: Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani stated that parliament would sort out judicial crises.

April 7: PPPP central leader Jehangir Badr said parliament would decide judges' reinstatement.

April 8: Federal Law Minister Farooq Naik said that deposed judges will be restored.

April 8: Aitzaz warned of protest if all judges are not restored.

April 8: Aitzaz stated that lawyers have faith in parliament.

April 13: Federal Law Minister Farooq Naik announced that formula for judges' reinstatement due in next week.

April 13: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice (retd) Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry said, ' I will not resign if restored'.

April 13: Qazi Hussain Ahmad called on Nawaz Sharif to assure his support over judges' restoration.

April 15: PPPP leaders pledge to restore judges with dignity.

April 16: Nawaz-Zardari held a detailed meeting and coalition partners vowed to reinstate judges within given time.

April 16: Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani said that 'good news about judges soon'.

April 17: Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani stated that parliament will decide fate of judiciary and President Pervez Musharraf.

April 17: Federal Law Minister Farooq Naik said that judges to be restored as per Murree Pact.

April 20: Federal Law Minister Farooq Naik refused to comment over Countdown to reinstatement of judges.

April 21: PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif stated that resolution to restore judges soon.

April 21: Federal Law Minister Farooq Naik briefed Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif about restoration of judges.

April 22: Nawaz-Zardari meeting held but failed to establish any consensus over judges' restoration.

April 23: Deadlock persists: as it was decided that the resolution to be revised.

April 23: Zardari-Nawaz differed over countdown.

April 23: Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani said he has no objection for executive orders if his party asked him to do so.

April 25: Judges' reinstatement: Resolution remained in Limbo.

April 25: Asif Ali Zardari left for Dubai.

April 25: Joint committee formed for the restoration of judges held meeting but remained inconclusive.

April 26: Joint committee finalises proposals on judges restoration.

April 26: Makhdoom Javed Hashmi hinted that PML-N may quit if judges not restored.

April 26: Judges' restoration issue: Nawaz Sharif warns against dissolution of newly elected parliament.

April 27: Nawaz Sharif stated that judges will be reinstated within few days.

April 28: Zardari held detailed meeting with Shahbaz Sharif in Dubai and talks remained inconclusive.

April 28: Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani stated that Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice (retd) Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry will be reinstated.

April 28: PML-Q Chief Shujaat Hussain stated that his party will move resolution for judges restoration.

April 28: PML-Q central leader Mushahid Hussain stated that removal of judges was a mistake of President Pervez Musharraf.

April 29: Coalition partners remained silent in the second round of Dubai meeting that was again remained inconclusive.

### **PML-N, PPP Agree on Constitutional Package to Raise SC Strength to 27**

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have agreed to pass a parliamentary resolution for the restoration of sacked judges but the executive order will be issued after the passage of a constitutional package increasing the number of judges of the Supreme Court and setting tenures. The session of the parliament will be called after the tabling of the resolution and it will be adopted after a debate, the sources said, adding that the coalition partners have taken this decision to amend the constitutional bar on the strength of the SC judges.

The amendment would allow incumbent and the sacked SC judges to continue in office after the latter's possible reinstatement in the next few days. The constitutional package will propose amendments in the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997, to increase the court strength to 27, it is learnt. Under the SC (Number of Judges) Act, 1997, the SC has 17 permanent judges but the number will jump to 27 in violation of the Act if the deposed judges including chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry are reinstated. Law Minister Farooq Naek had informed the PPP-PMLN special committee on the judges' issue that the number of the SC judges would have to be increased through an amendment to the Act if the deposed judges were restored under the current circumstances. They said the tabling of the proposed amendment in parliament would follow the resolution to restore the deposed judges.

## **Electoral Reforms**

### **Committee for Electoral Reforms**

Secretary Election Commission Pakistan, Kanwal Dilshad said on April 28 that Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan Justice (R) Qazi Farooq has established a Committee for electoral reforms which would make a brief study regarding the electoral laws, constitutional clauses and the electoral process besides recommending proposals for amendments in the electoral laws. Secretary Election Commission further said the Committee would make proposals in the light of current political and social conditions of the country, reports from local and EU observers and the Canadian High Commission. However, it will also thoroughly consider the electoral process of developed and under-developed countries. The official cited examples of India and Sri Lanka where amendments in the electoral laws are made every year to ensure transparency of electoral the electoral process adding the ECP is looking forward to achieve the international standards.

## **National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO)**

### **PPP, PML-N at odds on NRO in NA**

The Pakistan People's Party on April 21 opposed the debate in the National Assembly over the issue of the National Reconciliation Ordinance on technical grounds. NA Deputy Speaker Faisal Karim Kundi disallowed a calling attention notice moved by five MNAs of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz after Federal Law Minister Farooq Naik argued that the NRO is under challenge in the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Naik argued to oppose the notice to debate it in the National Assembly session and said that since the matter is pending before the Supreme Court, I cannot give any comment on it. The calling attention notice was moved by PML-N MNAs, Hanif Abbasi, Malik Ibrar Ahmad, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Mohammad Birjees Tahir and Abid Sher Ali. They wanted to invite the attention of the federal law minister regarding not giving relief to the general public and political workers under the NRO across the country and to debate it via a calling attention notice. Moving the matter, Hanif Abbasi said that NRO was a good step that relinquished all the false cases against senior leadership because these cases were not proved in the courts of law following pending for several years. Farooq Naik was quick in responding the matter and said that the matter is subjudice. After ruling out debate over the issues from deputy speaker, another MNA Abid Sher Ali protested and insisted to take it up for debate. He along with rest of the movers wanted to protest against the ruling but following indication from Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, they gave up.

## **Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR)**

### **Frontier Crimes Regulation and FATA Reforms – Analysis by Post Vista**

The Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) is in the news again. A new government has, once again, taken up the cause of the people living under a harsh law and in dreadful conditions in a region that the constitution calls the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA). This time, however, the talk of reform is being taken more seriously, but only because the 'legal black hole' of FATA has become 'international news' for all the wrong reasons - as a hub of terrorist activity and a source of potential danger to the rest of the country. This did not happen overnight. Many factors have brought FATA to its present dismal situation, but the main cause remains the constitutional neglect that has allowed the operation of the harsh legal regime, the FCR. This is a law that nearly every government has termed 'draconian' and yet each government found it useful and retained it in all its harshness. There are also those who argue that minus some provisions, it is still the only law appropriate for the FATA. Their reasons are based not on the welfare of the people of FATA, but on much larger 'strategic' interests or strange colonial notions. FCR has also, in the imagination of the people of FATA, become the symbol of the independence and the separate identity of people of the FATA. Repealing of FCR brings visions of the thanedar and the patwari roaming the FATA villages and towns and that is enough to send shivers down the spines of many a tribal elder.

How did the FCR achieve this status, and what exactly is this beast called the FCR? But before we can enter into any discussion on the provisions of the FCR, we would need to briefly look at **the constitutional status of the FATA and the conditions in which FCR was promulgated**. To begin with, the frontier in the FCR relates not to the frontier of a province or a country but the frontier of the British Empire. That explains a very basic point about the FCR: its importance lied then, as now, in the strategic location of the areas it was applied to. When the colonial Britain first established a stronghold in the area now called FATA and the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) around middle of the nineteenth century, it roughly coincided with the beginning of the so-called 'Great Game', the battle for colonial dominance in Central Asia between the Czarist Russia and the British Empire. Therefore, the main objective of the FCR was not to set up a proper justice system but maintain peace and protect the British installations, to provide a safe launching pad for adventures in Afghanistan and beyond. Unfortunately, to some, this might appear to be the only reason for the existence of the FCR today. To begin with, the British administrators tried governing the area under laws in force in the Punjab but found them unsuitable for the tribal culture of the region. Mainly because of the problems in prosecuting the hit and run attacks on the British installations, these laws were deemed inadequate. This led to the promulgation of the first of the four Frontier Crimes Regulations in 1871, which empowered the deputy commissioner to punish tribesmen who acted in hostile and unfriendly manner towards the British and to destroy any unauthorized fortifications in settlements and villages. Therefore, the foundation for the basic principles underlying the British administrative policy in the area was laid. These principles were greatly improved upon in the later FCRs, which are still popular with the political administration today. In 1901, the last of the four FCRs was promulgated. Unlike the previous regulations it was a comprehensive law and with some minor additions and amendments remains in force in FATA today. Its preamble stated its objective: to suppress crime in the frontier districts. Perhaps the use of the magical word 'frontier' allowed major departures from laws then in force in the rest of the British India.

All its major provisions are applicable only against Pathan and Baloch and such other class that the government may declare. It is on the face of it discriminatory as it is applicable only to 'Pathans and Baloch'. Further, **its provisions come into conflict with a number of fundamental rights**. It provides for the trial of offences as well

as the settlement of disputes of civil nature through a **Council of Elders**, which in common parlance is termed a jirga. In case of a civil dispute, where there is an apprehension that it may lead to a “blood feud, or murder, or culpable homicide not amounting to murder or mischief or breach of peace” which covers nearly every scenario of dissatisfaction, the deputy commissioner refers to matter to a Council of Elders for findings on “specified issues”. Section 8 of the FCR states that the council may hold such inquiry as may be necessary to arrive at a findings. And when the findings are given, they are not binding on the deputy commissioner. He may pass a decree on the findings if he so desires or remand the case for reconsideration to the same council or constitute another council or even end the case there and then by stating no further proceedings are required. Similarly, in a criminal case, the question of guilt of the accused refer the matter to a Council of Elders, which holds an inquiry as may be necessary. Again, the finding is not exactly binding on the deputy commissioner. If unsatisfied with the findings of the council, the deputy commissioner may remand the case to the same council and or refer it to another council. In both civil and criminal cases, it is the deputy commissioner who nominates all the members of the Council of Elders. This fact alone completely undermines the independence of the council in the public perception. The power to nominate members of the Council of Elders also helped to create a local elite, powerful in the local community but beholden to the deputy commissioner without undermining any of the powers of the deputy commissioner. Further, in both criminal as well as criminal cases, evidence is not recorded, i.e. it is not put in black and white. There is no legal requirement for the Council of Elders to follow any specific law or rules of evidence or procedure. This creates complications and confusion as to what may be considered as evidence what may be disregarded as hearsay. It is argued that the reason administrators prefer institutions like the Council of Elders or jirga is the fact that it allows hearsay and inadmissible evidence to be considered. Basing decisions on hearsay completely destroys even a pretence of a fair trial. There is also no time frame for the Council of Elders to complete the inquiry or submit its findings. As a result, cases can linger for years. There is an appeal process. The authority of accepting the first appeal lies with Commissioner FCR. The newly-established FCR Tribunal (which consists of two civil servants: the secretaries of the Home and the Law Departments, Government of NWFP) has been empowered to hear the second appeal. At no stage does the process touch or enter the common legal system of the country. These provisions appear harsh not only on paper; in actual practice they create far more hardships and injustice. The Council of Elders more often than not apply the unjust and harsh customary laws, a problem that intensifies when the deputy commissioner does not use his discretion in aid of the marginalized sections of the population, particularly when it comes into conflict with local ‘sensitivities’. Combined, all these factors effectively subvert the due process and kill the need for a methodical and scientific investigation and almost always shift the burden of proof on to the accused. The power to appoint members to the Council of Elders considerably increased the influence of the Deputy Commissioner and made criminal law a tool for controlling the people and creating hegemony of a chosen elite over the general population rather than fostering justice.

A major feature of the FCR is the concept of ‘**collective responsibility**’, which means that a whole tribe can be held responsible and punished for the misdeeds of a section or some members of a tribe. The punishments range from “seizure, wherever they are found, of all members of such tribe and of all or any property belonging to them or any of them” to recover a sum such as fine, etc.

The FCR **empowers the Deputy Commissioner** to demolish any building that is habitually used as a meeting place by robbers, house breakers, thieves or for the purpose of gambling. The criteria are so vague that the Deputy Commissioner can literally demolish any building within his jurisdiction. This power is regularly exercised and sometimes we find it being reported on the PTV. The only other news of such demolitions comes from Israel; Israeli bulldozers destroying Palestinian homes. Ask any person in the tribal areas about the powers of the deputy commissioner and you will invariably hear the mention of Section 40 FCR that grants him the power to put any person behind the bars for three years without assigning any reason and on completion of the three years to extend the imprisonment by a period of another three years. That may not be the true legal position, but it is not a far cry from the actual practice. Deputy Commissioners regularly invoke Section 40 FCR to lock up tribesmen. Section 40 of FCR empowers the Deputy Commissioner to “require a person to submit a bond for good behaviour or for keeping peace” if in the Deputy Commissioner’s opinion the person is likely to commit murder or disseminate sedition. The bond is required for a period of three years. If the person so required does not or cannot provide such a bond, then he or she can be locked up for the “bond period”. Under section 46 of the FCR, the bond can be re-required for a further period of three years and non-compliance can mean a further three years behind the bars. In actual fact, the bond is hardly ever taken, and the person detained, even if he is willing and able to provide it, is straight away send to prison for being unable to provide the bond. Excluding the FATA from the jurisdiction of the superior courts, in other words having no effective judicial review of his actions, means that the deputy commissioner can get away with such violations.

The FCR was held to be violative of the constitution and void in *Dosso Vs State* (PLD 1957 Quetta 9). The West Pakistan High Court held FCR to be violative of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1956 and therefore void. But before the appeal to the decision could be decided, the constitution was abrogated. In fact, it was the appeal of this decision in which the Supreme Court (*State vs Dosso* PLD 1957 SC 533) held the abrogation of the 1956 Constitution legal. Similarly, under the 1962 Constitution, in a number of cases beginning with *Malik Mohammad Usman vs State* (PLD 1965 Lah 668), FCR was held unconstitutional. Again, abrogation of the constitution before the final decision in the matter revived the FCR. Such revivals are based on a vague principle of constitutional law, the 'Doctrine of Eclipse', that when a statute is declared unconstitutional, it remains on the statute books. It is not struck off as in case of repeal by the legislature, it is merely eclipsed by the constitutional objection. And if that constitutional objection is removed or the court changes its decision regarding the conflict with a provision of the constitution, the law automatically revives. As mentioned earlier, the 1973 Constitution excluded the jurisdiction of the superior courts in FATA, the FCR, a law more than once declared unconstitutional on grounds of being violative of the fundamental rights, continued to be a valid law. FATA has not seen any meaningful reforms. All previous efforts have merely been of a cosmetic and superficial nature. The real issues have not been addressed. The real issues are exclusion from the mainstream, in particular the legal system, and the problem of accessibility and development. Extending regular laws requires a minimum level of development. If, for example, we consider the setting up of a proper legal system in FATA, can it be done through mere amendments in the law? The answer is 'no'. For extending the regular criminal laws, a lot of institutions would need to be developed and infrastructure put in place, i.e. a police force, capable of maintaining peace as well as investigating offences, would need to be raised. Similarly, courts and prisons would need to be established and their staff trained. These are the things that require big financial commitment on part of the government, political will and unremitting resolve over several years if not decades. These have so far not been forthcoming. The success of any future reform package will depend on just this.

The way forward is 'inclusion'. The myth of tribal independence that has been officially encouraged only serves to subjugate the common person in the tribal areas. As one tribal elder told an Human Right Commission of Pakistan consultation: "Life under FCR is life under slavery." But an immediate merger with settled areas or a complete repeal of the FCR may not yield the desired result, not only because of the expected political troubles, but due lack of the necessary infrastructure and trained personnel. A much better approach would be to gradually bring the FCR in line with the fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution and extend the jurisdiction of the superior courts to the FATA by an act of parliament.

## **Other Governmental Policies**

### **Uniform Policy in all Provinces: PM**

The Government will implement a uniform policy on various issues in all provinces, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani said on April 19. Presiding over a meeting of the Sindh cabinet here at the Chief Minister's House, the prime minister said the government would devise a "**consolidated strategy**" on such issues such as provincial autonomy, financial stability, water and power, and agriculture. The Prime Minister sought proposals from all ministries and has planned to meet all the ministers individually," Sindh Information Minister Shazia Marri said while briefing reporters about the cabinet meeting. She quoted the prime minister as saying that all the chief ministers would ensure that the policies were in line with the proposals from the ministries. She said Gillani promised a package for the preservation of Mohenjodaro and the development of Gorakh Hill. She said Larkana would be made a model district. The Sehwan-Larkana Road would be upgraded, the basic health units in the district would be equipped and a Benazir Bhutto-approved Lawyers' Colony would be built in the district at a cost of Rs 100 million, she added. Funding for relief packages for journalists and a housing scheme for PTV employees would also be made available soon, she said.

Sindh CM: Shazia said Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah briefed the prime minister on the province's stance on the National Finance Commission (NFC) Awards and the distribution of water among provinces. She said the chief minister demanded distribution of water in line with a 1994 agreement instead of the 1991 Water Accord. He also said the Indus River System Authority should be reconstituted. According to Shazia, the CM also informed the premier about the government's development plans, the Benazir Bhutto Youth Internship Programme and a multi-storey housing scheme. She said the provincial government also wanted the Keti Bunder project to be revived as soon as possible, as it had been introduced by Benazir, but could not be implemented during her lifetime.

## **Government to Work more Closely with NGOs**

The Government's directorate of human rights has resolved to work more closely with non-governmental organisations to combat societal ills such as imprisonment of youths, child marriages and poor labour conditions for kiln workers. The undertaking follows a meeting last week between regional Director Akhtar Rahman and NGOs Caritas Pakistan, SHARP, Shirkatgah, Sahil and the Prisoners Aid Association.

The Director lauded the NGOs for their work towards empowering women, labourers and children. The rights groups lodged several complaints with the government, in particular that the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance 2000 was not being implemented and youths under the age of 18 continued to be held in prisons, that kiln workers remained unregistered and labour laws were not made applicable to them, and that the ongoing practice of child marriages went unchecked, particularly in tribal regions of the country.

Zia Aftab, a spokesman for the directorate, said: "The government has a role to play by formulating and enforcing laws in line with human rights conventions. We hope to continue and expand our role under the new government." He said the directorate would place pressure to pass resolutions through the national and provincial assemblies, where applicable, to reduce human rights violations nationwide.

## **Reports/Surveys**

### **Pakistan 'Lags Behind in Poverty Reduction' – Global Monitoring Report**

A joint new report of World Bank-IMF revealed on April 8 that Pakistan is lagging behind for reducing poverty compared to other regional states including India in order to meet very first target of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Global Monitoring Report 2008 launched by the WB-IMF warns that most countries in South Asia will fall short on the MDGs, a set of eight globally agreed development goals with a due date of 2015. The WB's Resident office in Islamabad arranged video conference by connecting with Washington, New Delhi, Dhaka and Islamabad and lead author of the report, Zia Qureshi, highlighted the salient features of the report. Answering queries raised by the various participants, the lead author of the report said the rising food and fuel prices would affect developing countries efforts to cut poverty for achieving the first target under the MDGs. The Global Monitoring Report 2008 also stressed upon the need to jack up aid for developing countries from multilateral and bilateral creditors in order to meet costing of MDGs. To another question about comparison of South Asian states, Zia Qureshi said that India has done well in terms of reducing poverty as New Delhi achieved 9% GDP growth. "Pakistan's performance in terms of reducing poverty is less than India and Islamabad requires growth on sustained basis to achieve the desired results," he added. The South Asian region, he said, lagged behind on human development related targets as the regional states in terms of secondary and primary level education will fail to meet the envisaged targets. Bangladesh, he said, has performed well on child mortality rate compared to other regional states. He said all regional states made good progress on gender parity issues. To another question regarding definition of poverty, he said that the Bank is going to issue its latest findings about extreme poverty by July 2008 on the basis of purchasing power parity with one dollar a day formula in order to assess exact situation of all regions and states.

Following are some of the findings of report:

- The Global Monitoring Report 2008 finds out though much of the world, including South Asia, is set to cut extreme poverty in half by then, prospects are gravest for the goals of reducing child and maternal mortality, with serious shortfalls also likely in primary school completion, nutrition, and sanitation goals.
- The Global Monitoring Report: MDGs and the Environment-Agenda for Inclusive and Sustainable Development stress the link between environment and development and calls for urgent action on climate change.
- The report warns that developing countries stand to suffer the most from climate change and the degradation of natural resources. Arguably, few regions in the world are more at risk from climate change in terms of adverse impact on the poor than South Asia and the region faces a large potential health risk from climate change through increased malnutrition, diarrhoea, and malaria. To build on hard-won gains, developing countries need support to address the links between growth, development and environmental sustainability.

- The report says that progress toward the MDGs differs dramatically across countries, regions, and income groups. While most of the poverty reduction between 1990 and 2004 took place in East Asia and Pacific, South Asia would contribute the most to global poverty reduction in the next decade.

### **Pakistan's Literacy Ratio still at 50pc: UNESCO**

According to UNESCO, literacy ratio in Pakistan still remains at 50 percent, mainly because of small budgetary allocations, lack of political will and delays in disbursement of funds. In the region, Pakistan has been ranked higher only than Nepal and Bangladesh, which have literacy rates of 49 and 43 percent, respectively. Other countries have far better ratios: the Maldives, 96 percent; Sri Lanka, 91 percent; and India, 61 percent.

Addressing a function organized by the Parliamentary Caucus on Literacy in Pakistan, UNESCO's representative Arshad Saeed Khan said there were about 55 million illiterate people in the country because of which the country risked failing to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). If corrective measures were not taken, the percentage of illiterates might rise to 60 percent of the population by 2010, he said. **Sindh** has the highest percentage in education which stands at 54 percent followed by **Punjab** (52 percent) and the **NWFP** (40 percent). **Balochistan** has the lowest ratio – 33 percent. The UNESCO attributed the low level of literacy rate to factors like weak organizational infrastructure, low professional capacity, lack of research, non-availability of proper training institutes, low public awareness and lack of evaluation and monitoring system. Mr Arshad Saeed said that 16 political parties – including the PPP, PML-N, ANP, JUI-F and BNP (Awami), BNP (Mengal), Jamaat-i-Islami, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party and National Party — had signed Education For All Declaration on February 5, 2008 in which they had pledged to increase education budget up to 4 percent of GDP, at least 10 percent of the education budget for literacy and non-formal education, free and compulsory primary education — achieving 100 per cent enrolment rate, 86 percent adult literacy by 2015, eradicate political interference and favouritism in appointments, transfers of education staff and uniform core curriculum and similar facilities in all schools.

UNESCO stressed the need for legislation for free secondary education as a fundamental right, increasing education budget to 4 per cent of GDP, ensuring equal opportunities for all children because Pakistan has ratified UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education.

### **Half of Pakistanis Risk Starvation: WFP Survey**

Rising food costs are putting millions of the world's poorest people at risk of starvation as aid programmes are unable to buy and distribute enough food. Record high grain prices have contributed to strikes in Argentina, riots in Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Morocco and the Ivory Coast, and a crackdown on illicit exports in Pakistan. According to the World Food Programme, nearly half of Pakistan's 160 million people are at risk of going short of food due to a surge in prices. The WFP survey covering the year to March showed the number of people deemed "food insecure" had risen 28 percent to 77 million from 60 million in the previous year. The WFP estimates that anyone consuming less than 2,350 calories per day is below the food security line.

Sahib Haq, an official with the WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit in Pakistan, said food prices rose at least 35 percent in the past year compared with an 18 percent rise in minimum wages. The price of wheat flour in January was between RS 24-25 per kg in three of Pakistan's four provinces, compared with RS 15 per kg in January 2007, the WFP said. Prices have since moderated to around Rs 17 but are expected to shoot up 40 percent or more in the coming months, according to grain industry officials. Wheat flour is used to make roti and naan, a central component of the diet in the country.

Pakistan consumes about 22 million tonnes of wheat a year. Prices for rice, vegetables and cooking oil have also risen sharply, and the economic hardships faced by ordinary people played a big part in an election in February that resulted in President Pervez Musharraf's political allies being thrown out of government. The new coalition government, which took power last month, raised the support price it pays farmers to buy wheat to ensure adequate supplies, but Haq said the move would result in sharply higher flour prices in months ahead. The consumer price index, a key indicator of inflation, rose 11.25 percent in February from a year ago, mainly due to food prices. Due to the previous administration's reluctance to reduce subsidies for food and fuel, the government is saddled with a widening fiscal deficit. While wanting to alleviate the hardship of the poor, the new government will face some painful economic choices.

## Geo-Political Dynamics

### South Asia

#### **Pakistan, China Working on Transit Trade Accord**

Pakistan and China have made substantial progress in their talks to work out a transit trade agreement and expand the scope of a free trade agreement, besides identifying new areas of cooperation to strengthen their multi-faceted ties. The talks, held between President Pervez Musharraf and the Chinese leaders, including President Hu Jintao and Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, have made a significant headway on a host of issues.

The President, who arrived in Beijing after attending the annual Boao Forum for Asia and holding talks with President Hu Jintao in Sanya, in Hainan island, met Prime Minister Wen Jiabao at the Prime Minister Office on April 13. The two leaders reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen their ties in all spheres. President Musharraf said he was in China to see its progress and rapid development. Prime Minister Wen Jiabao said the visit of President Musharraf would further promote the friendly relations between the two countries. He said the two leaders had had several meetings over the past several years that signified excellent relations between them.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told that in several rounds of talks the two sides had also discussed the need for adopting 'corrective mechanism' to offset their trade imbalance.

He said the two countries had agreed on a five-year trade and economic development plan, and the projects falling in this category would get concessionary credit.

Both the countries also identified several new areas where they can extend cooperation through the already existing mechanism.

Pakistan and China signed a free trade pact in 2006 that covers goods and investments and are looking at ways to add the segment of trade and services besides raising the two-way trade to \$15 billion much before the stipulated time.

#### **Indian Cabinet Reshuffled**

India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh reshuffled his cabinet on April 6 with seven new ministers but key portfolios are unchanged ahead of mid-2009 elections. Among the new faces are Jyotiraditya Scindia, the 37-year-old scion of a royal family from central Gwalior region and son of late ex-minister Madhavrao Scindia. Another new name is former election panel chief and ex-bureaucrat M.S.Gill, a Sikh from northern Punjab state. Senior cabinet ministers in charge of major portfolios such as Home, Defence and Foreign Affairs would remain, but several infrastructure ministries including Coal would be changed. Political analyst Rasheed Kidwai said that the reshuffle comes as Singh's Congress-led left-leaning government is entering the final phase of its five-year tenure,

### Elections around the World

#### **Nepalese Constituent Assembly Elections**

An election for a Constituent Assembly was held in Nepal on 10 April 2008 after having been postponed from earlier dates of 20 June 2007 and 22 November 2007. This assembly will draft a new constitution. Hence, this will decide amongst others, on the fate of the Nepalese monarchy and federalism. The Constituent Assembly will have a term of two years.

The Election Constituency Delimitation Commission recommended the following number and distribution of seats: 240 members would be elected through a proportionate electoral system, 240 members through election in constituencies and 17 on recommendation by the Council of Ministers. On 15 December, the government tabled an **amendment to the constitution**. This amendment moved the deadline for Constituent Assembly elections from 15 December 2007 to 12 April 2008, and changed the membership of the Constituent Assembly: the seats for proportional representation system were increased to 335 and the members nominated by the Prime Minister were increased to 26 from 17. As specified in the Election to Members of the Constituent Assembly Act (2007), party list representation will be calculated using a result divisor method, the Sainte-Laguë method. The seats for

first-past-the-post elections remained at 240, making the total number 601 seats instead of the earlier 497. The word "republic" was also included, but will have to be confirmed by the Constituent Assembly. The agreement was officially adopted on December 23, 2007 by the government and the Maoists stated they would rejoin the government shortly. The interim parliament approved the deal on December 28, with 270 in favor and three opposed.

An estimated 60 percent of the 17.6 million voters casted ballots, many of them lining up before dawn outside the 20,000 polling stations.

The Nepalese stunned the world by having a relatively peaceful elections and a landslide victory for the Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist. In a complex electoral process for 601 seats, Maoists have bagged 220 seats. Last time, it was the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) that surprised the world when it emerged as the largest party in 1994 elections. For the first time in Asia, communists were voted to power at the national level. The Maoists landslide have surprised even themselves. The communists here had always been at the forefront of democratic struggle. Formed in 1949, the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) went through all the twists and turns of international communist movement. Despite some democratic reforms paving the way for multiparty elections in 1990, Nepal until now was a classic example of a feudal state ruled by a powerful monarch supported by the upper-caste Hindu elite. The masses have been looking to the communists to rid them of exploitation by the monarchy. Hence UML was voted by the electorate to power in 1994. But the communist government not only failed to deliver the land reforms it had promised, it also disillusioned its cadres.

**A two-member team of The Researchers (TR) & WPAF observed the Nepali elections. Report is being prepared and it would be shared on completion.**

### **Maldives to Hold Multi-Party Elections before October**

The Maldives, pushing ahead with democratic reforms, has decided to hold its first multi-party Presidential election before October 10, the first popular test of President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Asia's longest-serving ruler. Gayoom, in power since 1978, has said he will stand for re-election, defying opponents who describe the 71-year-old as a dictator who rules the island chain, famed for its luxury tourist resorts and fine scuba diving, like a sultan of old. The Constitutional Assembly of the Indian Ocean archipelago voted on April 20 to hold Presidential elections before October 10, 2008 and parliamentary elections before March 31, 2009.

Gayoom's Dhivehi Raiyyithunge Party (DRP) says that Gayoom can stand in the election for a seventh term, although the constitution sets a two-term limit, because this will be the first election under a new constitution. Opposition parliamentarians say he cannot run again and vow to take the issue to the Supreme Court if necessary. Gayoom first pledged sweeping democratic reforms in 2004, reacting to harsh criticism of his government's rights record in this nation of 300,000, mostly Sunni Muslims. Opposition parties were legalized in 2005, but a new constitution for the chain of 1,200 mostly uninhabited islands 500 miles (800 km) off the toe of India is still being drafted. Critics accuse Gayoom of cracking down on dissent despite his reform promises, and of stifling opposition parties to hold onto power and keep control of lucrative tourist resorts. Opposition groups, concerned the elections might not be free and fair, formed an alliance last November to press for an interim government. But the government used its strength in the constitutional assembly to pass an article on April 20 allowing the President and cabinet to remain in place until elections are held. In a referendum last year, the Maldives voted to adopt a U.S.-style presidential system, a victory for Gayoom and a defeat for the main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party which wanted a British-style parliamentary system of government. Gayoom, in power for 29 years, said after the referendum that he would run for re-election in the multi-party poll for one more five-year term.

### **Afghanistan's Presidential Poll Set for Late 2009**

Afghanistan plans Presidential elections in late 2009 and Parliamentary Polls around the middle of the following year, the country's election body said on April 9. The Election Commission, the U.N. and President Hamid Karzai had proposed holding the polls simultaneously to reduce the cost and due to the prevailing security situation in Afghanistan, where the Taliban have made a comeback since 2006. However, Zekria Barakzai, spokesman for the Commission, said due to political disagreement among the parties and politicians in parliament, it was decided to hold separate elections.

The 2009 election will be the second direct vote for the Presidency in Afghanistan's history. The first was in 2004 when Karzai, picked after the Taliban's fall to lead the country in 2001, won a five-year term. Foreign donors spent more than \$359 million for the first round of Presidential and the Parliamentary Polls in 2005. Many Afghans criticize Karzai for rising insecurity and failure to end corruption and the war against the Taliban. Many also complain that living conditions have not improved for years and the illegal opium trade has boomed. Despite pressure from some of his Western backers to improve governance, analysts say Karzai still retains the backing of his main ally, the United States. Karzai won fresh promises of long-term support from NATO at an alliance summit in Bucharest last week. NATO has a 47,000-strong force in Afghanistan battling a Taliban insurgency that has intensified over the past two years. Karzai also faces pressure from conservatives to stem a wave of unprecedented freedom since the fall of the hardline Taliban.

## **Italian Elections**

### **A Snap General Election was Held in Italy on 13-14 April 2008**

The election came after President Giorgio Napolitano dissolved Parliament on 6 February 2008 following the defeat of the government of Prime Minister Romano Prodi in a January 2008 Senate vote, and the unsuccessful tentative appointment of Franco Marini with the aim to change the current electoral law. Under Italian law, elections must be held within 70 days of the dissolution. The voting determined the leader of Italy's 62<sup>nd</sup> government since the end of World War II. The coalition led by ex-Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi from the People of Freedom party defeated that of former Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni of the Democratic Party.

The new People of Freedom party (merging Forza Italia and the National Alliance) achieved the largest share of the vote for a single party at about 37.5%. The new Democratic Party (formerly The Olive Tree coalition) achieved the second-largest share for a single party, at about 33%. The main center-right coalition of the PoF and the Northern League achieved about 47% of the vote, and the main center-left coalition of the Democratic Party and Italy of Values achieved about 38%.

The Italian proportional representation system of 2005 automatically boosts the largest coalition's representation in the lower house of parliament to 340 seats (about 54%), and a similar super-assignment system at the regional level succeeded in providing the center-right with 174 seats (about 55%) in the Senate. The center-left obtained 239 seats in the lower house and 130 seats in the Senate. The scale of the center-right's majority in the Senate came as a great surprise in contrast to predictions of a tight or hung chamber. Opponents of the 2005 proportional representation law had claimed it would inherently produce unworkably small majorities in the Senate, and the previously strident calls for a new electoral law will now likely be deferred. In the absence of a defection by the Northern League (such as brought down the first Berlusconi government in 1994), the current parliament is likely to be stable and last its entire five year mandate. With the elimination of the The Left - The Rainbow from the legislature, and the absorption of the other successor parties to the Italian Communist Party into the Democratic Party, this will be the first Italian legislature since World War II to contain no self-identified Communists. This is a remarkable transformation in a country which as recently as the 1980s had the largest non-ruling Communist Party in Europe. Since the Italian Greens chose to align themselves with the far left, they have also been eliminated from the legislature, making Italy one of the few European countries where the Greens have no representation.

**Summary of the April 13-14, 2008 Chamber of Deputies election**

<b>Parties and alliances</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Change</b>
S. Berlusconi coalition	17,063,874	46.81	+4.51	344	+102
People of Freedom	13,628,865	37.39	-1.21	276	+60
Lega Nord	3,024,522	8.3	+2.84	60	+34
Movement for Autonomy	410,487	1.13	+1.13	8	+8
W. Veltroni Coalition	13,686,673	37.54	+4.05	246	+9
Democratic Party	12,092,998	33.17	+1.97	217	-3
Italy of Values	1,593,675	4.37	+2.08	29	+12
Union of the Centre	2,050,319	5.62	-1.13	36	-3
The Left - The Rainbow	1,124,418	3.08	-7.1	0	-72
The Right-Tricolour Flame	885,229	2.43	-	0	-

Socialist Party	355,581	0.98	-1.91	0	-18
South Tyrolean People's Party	147,666	0.41	-0.07	2	-2
Autonomy Liberty Democracy	29,311	0.08	-0.01	1	±0
Movimento Associativo Italiani all'Estero	-	-	-	1	-
Others	1,138,545	3.11	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,527,231</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>630</b>	

#### Summary of the April 13-14, 2008 Senate election

Parties and alliances	Votes	%	Change	Seats	Change
S. Berlusconi coalition	15,507,549	47.32	+3.74	174	+39
People of Freedom	12,510,306	38.17	-1.01	147	+25
Lega Nord	2,642,167	8.06	+3.66	25	+12
Movement for Autonomy	355,076	1.08	+1.08	2	+2
W. Veltroni Coalition	12,456,443	38.01	+7.26	132	+23
Democratic Party	11,042,325	33.70	+5.78	118	+13
Italy of Values	1,414,118	4.32	+1.49	14	+10
Union of the Centre	1,866,294	5.69	-0.95	3	-18
The Left - The Rainbow	1,053,154	3.21	-8.12	0	-38
The Right–Tricolour Flame	687,211	2.10	+1.47	0	±0
Socialist Party	284,428	0.87	-1.94	0	-
Others	916,148	2.78	-	6	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,771,227</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>315</b>	

## Elections in Zimbabwe

### **Robert Mugabe fails to Regain Parliament in Zimbabwe Election Recount**

Zimbabwe held a Presidential election along with a Parliamentary Election on March 29, 2008. The three major candidates were Robert Mugabe of the Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), Morgan Tsvangirai of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), and Simba Makoni, an independent. The election was expected, because of Zimbabwe's dire economic situation, to provide President Mugabe with his toughest electoral challenge to date. Mugabe's opponents have been critical of the handling of the electoral process, and the government has been accused of planning to rig the election; Human Rights Watch said that the election was likely to be "deeply flawed". No official results have been released; the failure to release results has been strongly criticized by the MDC, which is seeking an order from the High Court that would force their release. An independent projection placed Tsvangirai in the lead, but without the majority needed to avoid a second round. The MDC has, however, declared that Tsvangirai won a narrow majority in the first round and has refused to participate in any second round. ZANU-PF has said that Mugabe will participate in a second round if one is necessary; however, ZANU-PF is alleging that some electoral officials, in connection with the MDC, fraudulently reduced Mugabe's score, and the party has requested a recount.

A partial recount of votes in Zimbabwe's disputed election has shown that President Robert Mugabe's Zanu-PF party has not regained control of the country's Parliament. MDC supporters were arrested outside the opposition party's headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe. The opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party gained a parliamentary majority for the first time in 28 years in last month's elections. A recount was required in 23 of the 210 constituencies. So far fourteen have been recounted, with the original result confirmed in all 14. This means that even if Zanu-PF wins all the remaining seats, it would still fall short of a majority. Prime Minister Gordon Brown has decried the escalating violence that has followed Zimbabwe's elections, saying that Britain will step up diplomatic efforts ahead of a UN Security Council meeting.

