

# NEWSLETTER

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

Vol: 1, Issue: 1

March - May, 2008

### In-side ▼

First Woman Speaker **02**

Deputy Speaker **03**

Prime Minister obtained unanimous vote of confidence **04**

Leader of Opposition **04**

Business Transacted by The House **05**

Election of Standing Committees **06**

Finance Committee Meeting **06**

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) **07**

Meeting of Foreign Dignitaries **09**

Picture Gallery **10**



**DR. FEHMIDA MIRZA ELECTED FIRST WOMAN SPEAKER**

See page **02**

## OATH TAKING OF MEMBERS ELECT

In the inaugural session of the 13th National Assembly held on Monday 17th March, 2008, Members-elect took oath under the 1973 Constitution.

At the outset, the Speaker called upon Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman, MNA to offer "DUA" for the solace of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Later, Parliamentary Leaders and Members paid gratifying tribute to Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto in recognition and

acknowledgment of her meritorious services that she rendered for the country especially for her struggle in restoration of democracy and rights of the people.

on March 17, 2008 The Assembly elected Speaker and thereafter, Deputy Speaker. In a special session Summoned for March 24, 2008. In that session the House ascertained the member for the office of the Prime Minister.



# THE PARLIAMENT MAKES HISTORY

Dr. Fehmida Mirza Elected

## First Woman Speaker

of the Muslim World



**Dr.** Fehmida Mirza, candidate from the Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) was elected Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan on March 19, 2008. She secured 249 out of 324 votes cast, out of which 319 were valid and five invalid. Mr. Asrar Tareen, MNA, a candidate from the opposition got 70 votes.

Dr Fehmida Mirza has the distinction of being the first woman speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan and the muslim world. She hails from a highly respected political family of Sindh. She contested in 2008 General Elections on a general seat from Badin (NA-225). She

was elected as Member of the National

**Dr. Fehmida Mirza  
has been elected as Member  
of the  
National Assembly  
twice before from Badin**

Assembly twice before from the same constituency in General Elections of 1997 & 2002 on PPP ticket. Her husband Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Mirza is also a

member of the Provincial Assembly Sindh and presently Home Minister, Sindh. Dr Zulfiqar Mirza was also a Member of the National Assembly in the year 1993.

Prominent amongst members of her family are her grandfather Qazi Abdul Qayyum, who was the first Muslim President of Hyderabad Municipality. Dr. Fehmida Mirza's father Qazi Abdul Majeed Abid started his political career as Chairman Hyderabad Division Council. He later served as Federal Minister for Education, Water and Power,

Contd. on page 03



Contd. from page 02

Dr. Fehmida Mirza Elected  
**First Woman Speaker**  
of the Muslim World

Food and Agriculture and Information. He remained Secretary General of the APNS for three consecutive terms.

Her uncle Qazi Muhammad Akbar was a member of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh and served as Home Minister, Finance, public works and Information. Qazi Muhammad Azam, her younger uncle remained Member of the West Pakistan Assembly in 1962 and Member of the Provincial Assembly, Sindh during the tenure of Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

Dr. Fehmida Mirza's father-in-Law Justice Zafar Hussain Mirza was a judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and later served as Chairman Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC).

Her brother Qazi Asad Abid was elected as Member of National Assembly of Pakistan in the year 1993. He has a distinguished record of being elected as Secretary General APNS for nine times.

# The Youngest DEPUTY SPEAKER Elected

**M**r. Faisal Karim Kundi was elected as the 17th Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan on Wednesday March 19, 2008. He secured 246 votes out of 318 polled. Four votes were declared invalid. Ms. Khush Bakht Shujaat, candidate from the opposition secured only 68 votes.

Faisal Karim Kundi, hails from a known political family of the North West Frontier Province. He has the honor of being the youngest (33 years old) Deputy Speaker from amongst so far elected Deputy Speakers. Born in 1975 in Dera Ismail Khan, he graduated from UK. He had an intrinsic inclination towards politics and was groomed by Shaheed Mohatarma Benazir Bhutto during her stay in London. He contested election from NA-24 on PPP ticket in General Election of February 2008.

He started his political career in 2003

and served PPP as Divisional Coordinator D. I. Khan Division. His father Fazal Karim Kundi was elected as MNA in 1990 on PPP ticket. and remained Chairman District Council D.I.Khan for two consecutive terms i.e. from 1983 to 1991. His maternal grand father Justice (R) Faizullah Khan Kundi was also a member of the West Pakistan Assembly in 1960s. His maternal grandfather served as Senior Judge of Peshawar High Court in sixties, Federal Minister for Establishment in the PPP government of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1971-72 and later as Chairman Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) from 1972 to 1979.

Faisal Karim Kundi's great grandfather Barrister Abdul Rahim Kundi has the distinction of being the first Deputy Speaker of the NWFP Legislative Assembly from 1932 to 1937.





# Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani Sworn in as Prime Minister

**F**or the first time in Parliamentary history of Pakistan the National Assembly expressed its confidence in Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani by unanimously passing a resolution for vote of confidence.

Mr. Gillani was sworn in as the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan on Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

He remained Speaker of National

Assembly of Pakistan from 1993 to 1997.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani remained Federal Minister for five times and held portfolios of Housing and Works, Railways, Tourism, Local Government and Rural Development. He started his political career as Chairman District Council, Multan from 1983 to 1985.

He hails from an influential and spiritual family of Multan that has enjoyed

respect and recognition in the area since 1921. His father Makhdam Alamdar Hussain Gillani was a leading politician of Multan who played a significant role in the Pakistan Movement. He was one of the signatories of the Pakistan Resolution of 1940. Makhdam Alamdar Hussain Gillani was a member of Feroz Khan Noon's Cabinet in 1953 in Punjab and 1958 at the Federal level. He was known for his social work.

## CH. PERVEZ ELAHI DECLARED LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

**C**haudhry Pervez Elahi of PML was declared as leader of the opposition on April 10, 2008 by the Speaker National Assembly Dr. Fehmida Mirza on the very first day of the 4th session of the National Assembly under Rule 39 of Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in National Assembly 2007. He remained Chief Minister of Punjab (2002-07).



# Business Transacted by The House

**D**uring the first three sessions, as per requirement of Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in National Assembly, 2007 and the Constitution, the Members - elect took oath; elected speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, ascertained a member who commands the confidence of the majority of the members of the National Assembly and passed a Resolution of vote of confidence in the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Yousaf Raza Gillani, unanimously.

In the 4th Session (10-25 April, 2008) the National Assembly transacted some very important business having no precedent before. The House elected 46 Standing Committees, the Leader of the Opposition was declared on the very first sitting, formed Special Committee to investigate and report on the matter of allotment of railways' land in Lahore to Golf Club on throw away price. Three adjournment motions were discussed and five resolutions were adopted which related to general public interest. Of these, the resolution for "investigation of

assassination of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto by UN" and "condemnation of Publication of blasphemous caricatures against the Holy Prophet (PBUH)" are of significant importance.

Besides, as much as 388 questions were answered on the floor and 20 Call Attention Notices were brought before the House. The concerned Ministers made important statements in response to the same and answered the questions asked by the members.

## MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

17TH MARCH 2008 TO 25TH APRIL 2008

### Adjournment Motions

- Admitted Adjournment Motion regarding "**increasing corruption in the District Government System and its failure**" was discussed
- Adjournment Motions regarding "**publication of caricatures against the Holy Prophet**" were admitted for two hours discussion
- Adjournment Motion regarding "**Water and Power crisis in the country**" which was later converted into motion under Rule 259 was discussed for 6 days

### Papers laid before the National Assembly

- Reports of the Auditor General of Pakistan for the year 2005-2006, 11th April 2008
- Annual Reports of the Federal Public Service Commission for the year 2006, 14th April 2008
- Annual Reports of the Pakistan Science Foundation for the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, 17th April 2008
- Statement of Accounts of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan for the year ended on 30th June 2006, 18th April, 2008.
- The Second Quarterly Report for the year 2007-08 on the state of economy, 21st April 2008.8

### Resolutions Adopted

- i) "Approaching the UN to investigate the assassination of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto"
- ii) "Publication of Blasphemous Caricatures against the Holy Prophet (PBUH)"
- iii) "Investigating the Allotment of Railways Land in Lahore to golf club on nominal prices" and " Recommendation to the Government to ban the use of plastic shopping bags and instead use biodegradable shopping bags."

# ELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

In pursuance of rule 200 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business the National Assembly completed the election of the Members of 46 Committees including the Standing Committees on Public Accounts, Rules of Procedure and Privileges, House &

Library, Government Assurances and

Finance Committee of National Assembly. The Rules were fully adhered to and the election of Committees was completed within the prescribed period of 30 days after the ascertainment of the Leader of the House.

**National Assembly  
Completes  
Election of  
46 Committees**

## FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVED THE BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 2008-2009

The Finance Committee, in its meeting held on April 25, 2008 under the chairpersonship of Madam Speaker, considered the budget estimates of the National Assembly for the financial year 2008-2009. Finance Minister, Mr. Ishaq Dar observed that the increase of 5% in the budget estimates is justified. Accordingly the budget estimates for the

year 2008-2009 were approved.

The meeting was attended by Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Fauzia Wahab, Azeem Daultana, Asma Arbab Alamgir, Nafisa Shah, Mir Humayun Aziz Kurd, Begum Ishrat Ashraf, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Ch. Saud Majeed, Malik Ibrar Ahmad, Eng. Khurram Dastagir Khan, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Shahzada Mohiuddin,

Nosheen Saeed, Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan, Abdul Matin Khan, Mufti Ajmal Khan, Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, Saeed Ahmad Zafar, MNAs and Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Finance and Revenue. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Waqar Masood, Secretary Finance and Karamat Hussain Niazi, Secretary National Assembly.





# Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

A high-powered parliamentary delegation of Pakistan headed by Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan participated in the 118th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly and related meetings at Cape Town, South Africa from 13-18 April, 2008 on the joint invitation of the host Presiding Officers of the South African Parliament, Madam Baleka Mbete, Speaker of the National Assembly and Mr. Mninwa Johannes Mahlangu, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.

The delegation accompanying the Speaker comprised the following MNA's,

1. Ms. Farah Naz Ispahani,
2. Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah,
3. Ms. Bushra Gohar
4. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq
5. Khawaja Sheraz Mehmood

6. Mr. Azeem Daultana

Prior to the inauguration of the Conference, the Speaker Dr. Fehmida Mirza addressed the 4th Meeting of the World Women Speakers on the invitation of the IPU President, Mr. Pier Ferdinando CASINI and Madam Baleka Mbete, Speaker of the South African Parliament & IPU Secretary General, Mr. Anders B. Johnson.

In her address, Madam Speaker underlined the priorities of Pakistan for improving the status of women, particularly by combating poverty at all level and by addressing discrimination against them mainly arising by their exclusion from the mainstream decision-making process.

---

## Dr. Fehmida Mirza presided over a plenary session of The IPU Assembly in Cape Town

---





More than 200 women legislators from 116 countries participated in the forum and debated vital issues like combating poverty and preventing human trafficking through adequate legislation. The Speaker assisted by the delegates briefed the forum about the priorities of the present government in Pakistan for tackling such problems.

The delegation also attended Asia Pacific Region Meeting and shared Pakistan's democratic experience for developing the region as a whole through cooperation.

On the request of IPU and the host speaker of South Africa, Speaker Dr. Fehmida Mirza presided over one of the sessions of IPU Assembly. It was an honor and a unique attribute conferred upon Pakistan.

In her address the Madam Speaker highlighted issues of gender, poverty, terrorism, food insecurity, unemployment, water energy crisis, health and educational services. She also highlighted that the world has to act swiftly in bridging the gap between the "have", and "have not". She further stressed that the world must ensure that:

- a. the dignity and respect of nations is not compromised while combating the challenges of extremism and terrorism;
- b. it must strive for social and



Imam of Kaaba offering Dua for Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

- c. economic justice and not focus only on economic growth and corporate expansion;
- d. it must ensure justice to all oppressed nations, fighting a just war for liberation and freedom;
- e. it must impede the unpardonable trends of ridiculing peoples' values and beliefs by attacking religions in the garb of freedom of speech and expression;
- f. it must act promptly to initiate dialogue between nations rather than pursuing and allowing a policy of conflict between them;
- g. it strengthens and braces the

democratic forces as not the old lookout of opposed to the dictatorship, and

- g. Strengthens good relations with all neighboring countries and endeavors to resolving long standing issues with each other through persistent dialogue.

Two members of the delegation were elected to the following Committees of the forum unopposed:

1. Ms. Bushra Gohar for International Humanitarian Law as substitute member.
2. Mr. Azeem Daultana, Peace and International Security, as substitute rapporteur.

Madam Speaker also called on the Imam of Kaaba and apprised him of the situation in Pakistan and requested him to use his influence for increasing trade and relaxing oil prices as well as making an allowance for adequate assistance to Pakistan so that the challenges of poverty, health and education are met. Imam of Kaaba highly appreciated the view points of the Speaker and assured her of his support.

On the sidelines of the conference, many delegations requested to meet the Speaker. Dr. Fehmida Mirza met with the delegations from UK, China, Iran, Afghanistan, UN Deputy Secretary General, Secretary General of the IPU and discussed with them the issues of mutual interest.



Dr. Fehmida Mirza with Women Speakers at the IPU



# MEETING OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES

## with Madam Speaker

Foreign dignitaries' called on Speaker and discussed matters of mutual interest as well as issues of national and international importance.

March 25, 2008	<b>US delegation</b> led by Deputy Secretary of State Mr. John D. Negroponte and H.E. Richard Boucher, Assistant Secretary of State South and Central Asian Affairs, Department of State, Washington
March 27, 2008	<b>US Congressional Delegation</b> led by Congressman John Tierney (Democrat – Minnesota)
March 27, 2008	<b>Member delegation</b> led by Mr. Liu Hongcai, Vice Minister of the International Department of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Ambassador of <b>China</b>
March 28, 2008	H.E. Engin SOYSAL, Ambassador of the <b>Republic of Turkey</b>
April 9, 2008	Ms. Anna Cataldi, <b>Global Stop TB Ambassador</b>
April 9, 2008	H.E. Mr. DJ Mavimbela, High Commissioner of the <b>Republic of South Africa</b>
April 10, 2008	H.E. Ms. Anne W. Paterson, Ambassador of <b>United State of America</b>
April 22, 2008	Dr. Najma Heptulla, Former President <b>Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)</b> and Former Deputy Chairman, <b>Rajya Sabha of India</b> , called on the Honourable Acting Speaker National Assembly Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi
April 23, 2008	Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, Foreign Minister of <b>Afghanistan</b>
April 24, 2008	H.E. Ali Saeed Mohammad Al -Awad Assery, Ambassador of the <b>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</b>
April 25, 2008	Mr. Yang Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the <b>People's Republic of China</b>
April 25, 2008	Mr. Thomas GARRETT, Regional Director of <b>Middle East and North Africa</b>
April 25, 2008	H.E. Ms. Zorica McCarthy, High Commissioner of <b>Australia</b>
April 25, 2008	H.E. Mr. Seiji Kojima, Ambassador of <b>Japan</b>
May 9, 2008	H.E. Masha-Allah Shakeri, Ambassador, <b>Islamic Republic of Iran</b>
May 9, 2008	H.E. David B. Collins, High Commissioner of <b>Canada</b>

# PICTURE Gallery

(Foreign Dignitaries Meet Madam Speaker)



Ms. Anne W. Paterson,  
Ambassador of  
United States of America  
called on Speaker  
National Assembly  
Dr. Fehmida Mirza  
at Parliament House  
on 10-04-2008.



H. E Ali Saeed  
Mohammad Al-Awad Assery,  
Ambassador of the Kingdom  
of Saudi Arabia called on  
Speaker National Assembly  
Dr. Fehmida Mirza  
at Parliament House on  
24-04-2008



Mashaallah Shakeri  
Ambassador Islamic  
Republic of Iran  
called on Speaker  
National Assembly  
Dr. Fehmida Mirza at  
Parliament House on  
9-05-2008.

# PICTURE Gallery

(Foreign Dignitaries Meet Madam Speaker)

Ms. Anna Cataldi  
Global Stop TB  
Ambassador called on  
Speaker National Assembly  
Dr. Fehmida Mirza  
at Parliament House  
9-04-2008



Dr. Bangin Dadfar Spanta  
Foreign Minister of Afghanistan  
called on Speaker  
National Assembly  
Dr. Fehmida Mirza at  
Parliament House on  
23-04-2008



Speaker National Assembly  
Dr. Fehmida Mirza  
Meets Member  
French Media  
delegation at  
Parliament House  
on 8-04-2008.



# PICTURE Gallery



Honourable Speaker & Deputy Speaker visiting the Press Gallery in the National Assembly Hall alongwith Secretariat Staff (14-05-2008)



Canadian Delegation called on Acting Speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi at Parliament House on 14-04-2008.



Director Health Office USAID Pakistan to Meets Deputy Speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi at Parliament House on 26-04-2008.

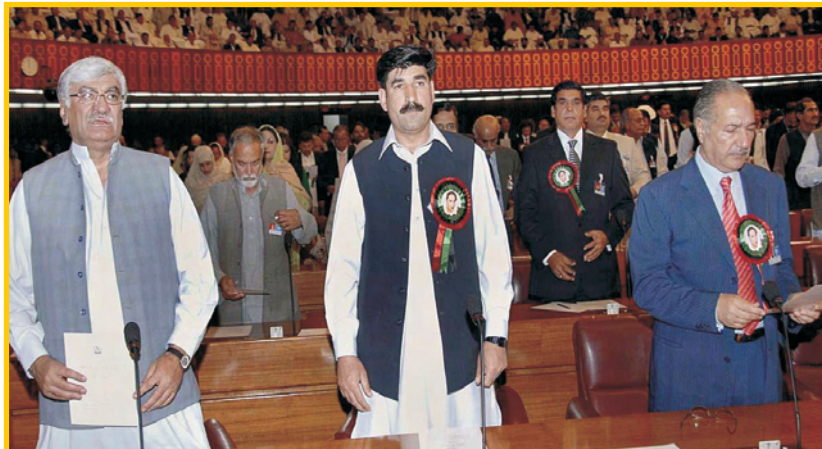
# PICTURE Gallery

Members -Elect Taking Oath (March 17, 2008)



# PICTURE Gallery

Members -Elect Taking Oath (March 17, 2008)





# PICTURE Gallery

Members -Elect Taking Oath (March 17, 2008)





# PICTURE Gallery

Members -Elect Taking Oath (March 17, 2008)

