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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>ELECTION WATCH</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Political Stakeholders &amp; Elections</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Fighting Words: Army Chief Fires A Salvo for Democracy .....	6
Future of Pakistan Hinges on Fair Elections: Kayani .....	7
ECP Gets Control of Crisis Management Cell .....	7
Election in Karachi Flawed: ECP .....	8
ECP Seeks Reports on Allegations of Rigging .....	9
Re-Polling Recommended In Constituencies Where Women Were Not Allowed To Vote .....	9
Irregularities: Thumbprint Verification to Begin in Two Weeks, Says ECP .....	10
<b>Political Parties</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Pakistan People’s Party (PPP)</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Saasi Palejo Losses at PS 85 .....	10
PPP Balochistan President Resigns .....	10
<b>Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML - N)</b> .....	<b>11</b>
PML-N Watchdog to Monitor Electioneering .....	11
PML-N Suspends Campaign for a Day .....	11
Post 9/11 Pakistan: A Huge Challenge for Nawaz .....	12
Celebrations and Anger: City Witnesses Mixed Reactions .....	12
Major Issues Nawaz’s Government Will Face .....	13
Protests Dynastic Politics: PML-Q Women’s Wing Chief Resigns .....	14
Assembled: PML-N All Set To Present Budget .....	14
More Independents Join PML-N .....	14
Dialogue with Taliban Best Option, Says Nawaz .....	15
PML-N Plans To Bring Tax-Free Budget for 2013-14 .....	15
PML-N to Delay Budgets by A Few Weeks .....	15
Shahbaz to Be Punjab CM for the Third Time .....	16
Zafarullah Jamali joins PML-N .....	16
<b>Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)</b> .....	<b>16</b>
PTI Never Asked Qadianis for Votes .....	16
PML-N, JUI-F and PPP Together Cannot Defeat PTI: Hashmi .....	17
PTI’s Victory: KP Keeps Its Tradition of Political Change Alive .....	17
Fazl Moves to Keep PTI Out Of Power .....	18
Imran Seeks Action against Altaf .....	18
Imran Holds Muttahida Responsible For Murder .....	18
PTI Candidate Retains PK-10 Seat after Vote Recount .....	19
PTI’s Abrar Files Plea in SC against ‘Rigging’ In NA-117 .....	19
<b>Muthida Qaumi Movement (MQM)</b> .....	<b>19</b>
Lashing Out: Detach Karachi If You Don’t Accept Our Mandate, Says Altaf .....	19
Karachi Committee of MQM Dissolved .....	20
<b>Independent Candidates &amp; Other Parties</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Maulana Samiul Haq Says Voting a Religious Obligation .....	20

Most Independent MPAs Join Parties -----	21
<b>Women Candidates – Nominated &amp; Contesting</b> -----	<b>22</b>
In Lakki Marwat, Women in Vanguard of ANP Campaign -----	22
Women’s Political Participation High Priority for UN -----	22
ANP Woman Activist Canvasses For Leaders -----	23
A Glance at Sindh’s Female Hopefuls -----	24
Double Challenge: Being Hazara & the First Woman to Stand in Quetta for NA -----	27
Only Six Women Make It to National and 10 to Provincial Assemblies -----	27
Women in Elections: Contrary to Claims, ECP Fails to Release Gender-Based Data -----	28
<b>Voters &amp; Overseas Pakistanis</b> -----	<b>28</b>
Transport Ban May Affect Women Turn Out In KP -----	28
In Pakistani Town, Men Have Spoken: No Women Vote -----	29
KP Government Confirms Women Vote Blocked By Political Parties -----	30
Democratic Right: Assisting Voters, But Unable To Vote Themselves -----	31
Over 130,000 Women in Bajaur Deprived Of Voting Right -----	31
<b>Violence/Law &amp; Order Situation during Elections</b> -----	<b>32</b>
Election Violence: NPP Candidate Survives Suicide Attack near Shikarpur -----	32
Nine Days to Go: ECP Spells Out Election Security Plan -----	33
Code of Conduct: 72,000 Violations Reported In Punjab -----	34
Two Contestants Survive Blasts: No Let-Up in Attacks on Poll Offices, Rallies -----	34
Candidate Kidnapped -----	35
Election Violence in Pakistan: 74 Killed and Counting -----	35
70,000 Troops to Protect Poll Process -----	35
Two Polling Stations Blown Up -----	36
Polling Stations Security: Outdated Criteria -----	37
Pre-Poll Attacks: ANP Candidate and Young Son Shot Dead -----	37
Media Talk: ‘Karachi Violence A Local Phenomenon’ -----	38
Twin Bomb Blasts in Karachi -----	38
Police Raid: 90,000 Forged Ballot Papers Seized In Dir -----	39
At Least 14 Killed, 52 Injured In 3 Attacks in KP -----	39
Bloody Ballot: 110 Killed In April -----	40
Terror Threats: Taliban Plotting Major Attacks -----	41
Strike, Threats Mar Balochistan Polling -----	42
EU Observer Stresses Peaceful Power Transfer -----	43
Enthusiastic Voting In KP despite Bombs -----	43
<b>Polling Assessment, Polling Stations &amp; Polling Staff</b> -----	<b>43</b>
Duties at Polling Stations: Teachers Posted To Areas Where Officials Fear To Tread -----	43
Over 750,000 UNDP Trained Government Staff Joined Election Duties -----	44
LHWs to Protect Women Polling Stations in KP -----	45
Mobiles Not Allowed Inside Polling Booths -----	45
Scuffles at Female Polling Stations While Men Behave -----	46
Teachers Protest Against RO’s ‘Misbehavior’ -----	46
Army to Be In, And Outside, Polling Stations in NA-250 -----	46
<b>Election Updates, Analysis, Reports &amp; News</b> -----	<b>47</b>
Tribe before Party in Pakistan Rural Campaign -----	47
Constituency Profile: Ideology over Individuals -----	48
Parha Likha Pakistan: A Means but No End -----	49
A Divided Household: Daughter in PTI, Father in PPP -----	50
25-Member UK Mission to Observe Elections -----	50
Pirs in Politics -----	51
Candidates Campaigning Through SMS -----	52

The Historic May 11 Polls Will Witness the First Ever Democratic Transition of Power -----	52
Parties Have No Clear Plans to Cut Expenditure -----	52
Parties' Manifestos: Call To Promise Protection for Minorities -----	53
Election Preparations: Ballot Papers for Punjab Still In Print -----	54
Political Parties Urged To Take Women, Children Seriously -----	55
District Profile: Voters Opt For Silence over Explicit Support -----	56
President Zardari Signed the Election Laws (Amendment) Ordinance-2013 -----	57
Strict Measures: Rigging Polls Will Be Harder This Time -----	57
Fears, Doubts, Hope, Ambition Come In a Package for Pakistan -----	58
High Praise: Electoral System Gets C' Wealth Thumbs Up -----	58
Election Postponed In Kurram, Muzaffargarh -----	59
Aurat Foundation Rejects Election Results from Some Constituencies -----	60
Presiding Officers Accountable for Every Ballot Paper: Re-Polling On 19 <sup>th</sup> May -----	61
Election 2013 Makes Pakistan a Strong Democracy -----	61
Poll-Fixing Allegations: Winners Aside, Balochistan Parties Demand Re-Elections -----	62
<b>FAFEN Report on Elections &amp; Reactions -----</b>	<b>62</b>
FAFEN Terms Elections 'Relatively Fair' -----	62
Cases against FAFEN for Misreporting Poll Results -----	62
FAFEN Says Merger of Polling Stations Led To Result Errors -----	63
FAFEN Seeks More Poll Data -----	64
<b>GOVERNANCE WATCH -----</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Government Working -----</b>	<b>65</b>
18th Amendment Limits Cabinet Size -----	65
Eradicating Corruption: NAB Shifts Focus from Enforcement to Prevention Regime -----	65
Zardari-Nawaz Meeting Unlikely In Lahore -----	66
'Upcoming Government Should Focus On Good Governance' -----	66
SC Suspends Transfers, Appointments by Caretaker Government -----	66
New PM to Take Oath on June 5: Nizami: Power Transfer Process Likely To Begin On 1st -----	67
<b>Provincial Assemblies -----</b>	<b>67</b>
Punjab Cabinet Approves Ordinance for Women -----	67
Provinces Need More Financial Autonomy -----	68
<b>Judiciary -----</b>	<b>68</b>
Musharraf's Lawyer Renews Request for Larger Bench -----	68
Contradictory Arguments: SC Asks Musharraf to Clarify His Position in Writing -----	69
Former President, Retired Gen Pervez Musharraf -----	70
Judges Detention Case: Complaint Withdrawn Against Musharraf -----	70
ATC Extends Musharraf's Remand for 14 Days -----	70
Musharraf Gets Bail in Benazir Case -----	71
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH -----</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Missing Persons: Status &amp; Up-Date -----</b>	<b>72</b>
Missing Persons Case: Bring the 7 Detained Men before Court -----	72
<b>HR Related Reports &amp; Surveys -----</b>	<b>72</b>
84pc of Pakistani Muslims Want Sharia, Says PEW Survey -----	72
Minority Report: Parties Emphasize Religious Pluralism -----	74
2,670 People Killed In Pakistan in Four Months -----	75
The Neglected Social Sector -----	76
<b>GENDER WATCH -----</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Violence against Women -----</b>	<b>78</b>
Silencing the War against Rape -----	78

Couple Killed In The Name Of Honor-----	78
<b>Achievements by Women -----</b>	<b>78</b>
Samina Baig: First Pakistani Woman to Scale Mount Everest-----	78
<b>SECTARIAN CRISES &amp; CONFLICT WATCH-----</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Conflict &amp; Sectarian Crisis - Security Briefs -----</b>	<b>80</b>
Security Briefs of the Month of May-----	80
<b>Reports -----</b>	<b>85</b>
Polls Violence: A Comparison (2002 - Till Present)-----	85
<b>ECONOMIC WATCH -----</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Facts &amp; Figures -----</b>	<b>90</b>
SBP Extends Agriculture Loans Tenor-----	90
Islamic Banking Effective For Non-Muslim Economies'-----	90
Budgetary Borrowing Close To Rs1 Trillion-----	91
Agriculture Sector Remains Worst Hit In Last 5 Years-----	91
'Improvement of Economy Should Be Top Priority of New Government'-----	92
Foreign Exchange Reserves Decline To 11.601\$ Billion-----	92
NAB Recovered Rs25 Billion Last Years-----	92
Rs22bn More For 'Corrupt' Power Sector: Minister-----	93
Rupee Slips after Pre-Poll Boost-----	94
'Tax-To-GDP Ratio Needs Improvement to Help Economy'-----	95
<b>DEVELOPMENT WATCH-----</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Health Projects-----</b>	<b>96</b>
Girls' Education Stressed For Reproductive Health-----	96
<b>Health Reports/ Controls-----</b>	<b>96</b>
Deadly Premonition: NWA Reports First Polio Case since Taliban Ban-----	96
Unhealthy Revelations: Pakistan Plagued By Dismal Healthcare System-----	97
Ordinance for HIV/AIDS Control Promulgated In Sindh-----	98
<b>Education Projects-----</b>	<b>98</b>
'Educate a Child': Campaign Launched To Help Needy Dropout Students-----	98
<b>ENERGY CRISIS-----</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Government's Role in Oil and Gas-----</b>	<b>99</b>
Gas Reserves Found In Kirthar Belt-----	99
Senate Body for Early Completion of IP, TAPI Gas Projects-----	99
Oil Prices Drop-----	100
Oil Prices Extend Losses-----	100
Conference on Solutions for Energy Crisis Concludes-----	101
18 Hours' Load Shedding Hampers Textile Industry-----	101
China Offers Help to End Pakistan's Energy Woes-----	102
China Takes Over Operational Control of Gwadar Port-----	102
Powering the Relationship: Nawaz Wants Energy, Not Aid, From China-----	103
<b>REGIONAL WATCH-----</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Pakistan &amp; United States-----</b>	<b>104</b>
Electoral Process Must Continue Despite Wave of Violence: US-----	104
Pakistan Must Adopt Wise Policy on US Troop Withdrawal'-----	104
<b>Pakistan &amp; India-----</b>	<b>104</b>
Prison Attacks: Sanaullah Declared 'Brain Dead', Says Foreign Office-----	104
Source Says Sarabjit Singh Was A RAW Agent-----	105

US, Indian Envoys Meet Nawaz-----	106
<b>Pakistan &amp; Afghanistan</b> -----	<b>106</b>
Pak-Afghan Ties: Envoy Denies Pakistan Seeking 'Strategic Depth' -----	106

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## ELECTION WATCH

## Political Stakeholders &amp; Elections

**Fighting Words: Army Chief Fires A Salvo for Democracy**

Army chief General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani has strongly dispelled the impression that the upcoming parliamentary elections will be postponed due to security threats. “The general elections will be held in the country on the 11th of May. We must not harbor any suspicions or misgivings about it,” he said, His statement came amid doubts on whether the elections would take place on time in the wake of the deteriorating law and order situation in the country, particularly in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Karachi and Balochistan. In his speech, the army chief also cautioned that the politics of ‘retribution’ would not strengthen democracy in the country. “It is not merely about retribution, but is in fact about awareness and participation of the masses that can truly end this game of hide-and-seek between democracy and dictatorship.” His carefully-worded remarks appeared to refer to the ongoing trial of former military ruler General Pervez Musharraf, who is also facing treason charges for imposing emergency rule in 2007. The country’s powerful military establishment, though tight-lipped over Musharraf’s detention, is apparently upset over the way its former boss is being dragged into different cases.

General Kayani said the army was committed to “wholeheartedly assisting and supporting the conduct of free, fair and peaceful elections.” The army chief said the upcoming elections would provide a ‘golden opportunity’ to usher in an era of true democratic values in the country, and urged voters to elect those who would work for the country. “If we succeed in rising above all ethnic, linguistic and sectarian biases to vote solely on the basis of honesty, sincerity, merit and competence, there would be no reason to fear dictatorship or to grudge the inadequacies of our present democratic system,” he emphasized. In unambiguous terms, Gen Kayani declared that Pakistan was not fighting a war on terror at any other country’s behest. He also indirectly hit out at certain political parties, which according to him, were trying to confuse the public on the issue of militancy. “The menace of terrorism and extremism has claimed thousands of lives, including those of the army, Rangers, FC, Police, Frontier Constabulary, Levies and the innocent people of Pakistan. Our external enemies are busy in fuelling the flames of this fire,” he said.

In a clear signal to Taliban apologists and the ‘this is not our war’ crowd, he remarked that despite all this bloodshed, certain quarters still want to remain embroiled in the debate concerning the causes of this war and who imposed it on Pakistan. “While this may be important in itself, the fact of the matter is that today it is Pakistan and its valiant people who are a target of this war and are suffering tremendously”. He said the country could not afford to confuse “our soldiers and weaken their resolve with such misgivings.” “Every drop of blood shed for the national cause is sacred and no one can better understand its value than the families who are present here today,” he said. In his address, the army chief also called on militants to lay down their arms and accept the country’s constitution unconditionally. “We sincerely desire that all those who have strayed and have picked up arms against the nation return to the fold. However, this is only possible once they unconditionally submit to the State, he said. However, he warned that there was no room for doubt when it comes to dealing with rebellion against the state.

**The Express Tribune - May 01, 2013**

### **Future of Pakistan Hinges on Fair Elections: Kayani**

Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani said that general elections would be held in the country on May 11 and emphasized that the future of the country depends on their fair conduct. “We must not harbor any suspicions or misgivings about it,” he said while addressing the participants of the “Yaum-e-Shuhada” ceremony at the GHQ. He said this indeed was a golden opportunity, which could usher in an era of true democratic values in the country. The COAS said that in his opinion, it is not merely retribution but awareness and participation of the masses that can truly end this “game of hide and seek between democracy and dictatorship”. “If we succeed in rising above all ethnic, linguistic and sectarian biases to vote solely on the basis of honesty, sincerity, merit and competence, there would be no reason to fear dictatorship or to grudge the inadequacies of our present democratic system,” he added. Gen Kayani said that the nation’s salvation resides in transforming the government into a true platform of public representation. “This would come to pass once the construct of public representation in Pakistan is oriented towards affording primacy and precedence to larger public interest over personal interests.” “Otherwise, may it be democracy or dictatorship; governance would continue to remain a means of self aggrandizement and that of plundering national wealth and resources,” he added. He assured that armed forces stand committed to wholeheartedly assist and support in the conduct of free, fair and peaceful elections, to the best of their capabilities and remaining within the confines of the constitution. Now, once the destination is in sight and the nation must not err in accomplishing its responsibilities towards the election process, he added. “We must never forget that success of any system resides in coming up to the aspirations of the masses,” he said. He said the success of democracy is intimately linked with the well-being and prosperity of the nation, and added that the real virtue of democracy ultimately lies in the safety and welfare of the masses. About conduct of general elections, he said it would provide the foundation and to build on this foundation, we would have to find answers too many questions; war against terrorism being one of these questions. The COAS said the menace of terrorism and extremism has claimed thousands of lives, including those of the army, Rangers, FC, Police, Frontier Constabulary, Levies and innocent people of Pakistan. “If we include the injured and affected family members of the martyrs, the numbers increase manifold,” he added. He said external enemies are busy in igniting the flames of this fire. However, despite all this bloodshed, certain quarter’s still want to remain embroiled in the debate concerning the causes of this war and who imposed it on us, he added. While this may be important in itself but the fact of the matter is that today it is Pakistan and its valiant people who are a target of this war and are suffering tremendously.

**The Express Tribune - May 01, 2013**

### **ECP Gets Control of Crisis Management Cell**

Prime Minister, Justice (r) Mir Hazar Khan Khoso has decided to place the National Crises Management Cell (NCCM), presently working under the Ministry of Interior, at the disposal of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). This decision was taken by the Prime Minister to allay concerns raised by the ECP regarding the law and order situation. The Prime Minister termed the recent terrorist attacks across the country as unfortunate and expressed concern over the prevailing law and order situation. He reiterated the resolve to leave no stone unturned for providing security to political leaders and election candidates. The Prime Minister said that though maintenance of law and order is a provincial subject, the federal government has been extending all possible assistance to the provincial governments for beefing up their capacities in this regard. “The caretaker government having inherited the decade old law and order problem

is committed to defeating the nefarious designs of those who threaten the life, property and honor of the people of Pakistan. A high level meeting was convened, which was attended by the Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of all the provinces, representatives of the Federal/Provincial law enforcement agencies, besides representatives of Intelligence agencies to discuss the mechanism for implementation of the decisions of the Cabinet. The caretaker government decided to use all available resources including deployment of the army and civil forces and permitted targeted operations in some parts of the country to flush out terrorists and anti-social elements. The Prime Minister who is personally monitoring the situation is in touch with the provincial governments as well as the federal authorities. Besides, necessary directions are being issued to take remedial measures as and when deemed necessary. The caretaker government valued the efforts being made by the ECP in conducting general election in the country and reiterated its commitment to continue working harmoniously for achieving a conducive environment with the objective of holding free, fair and transparent elections.

**Daily Times - May 02, 2013**

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### **Election in Karachi Flawed: ECP**

The Election Commission of Pakistan said on Saturday. It is unclear whether the commission's conclusion means national elections will have to be held again. The chief election commissioner (CEC) raised his concerns with the Karachi Corps Commander and Rangers director general that polling staff in many constituencies in Karachi had been threatened, which prevented them from performing election duties. "In other instances, attempts have been made to hijack the vehicles transporting voting material from the returning officers to the polling stations. This has caused serious delays in polling, especially in NA-250," it added. The ECP has directed all the presiding officers to provide a copy of the statement of count and the ballot paper account to such of the candidates, their election agents or polling agents as may be present and obtain a receipt for such copy. In this regard, directions have also been issued to all district returning officers and returning officers for strict compliance as per Section 38(11) of the Representation of People Act, 1976. The ECP has established a complaint centre at the ECP Secretariat under the supervision of director general (elections and budget). This complaint centre will work for 24 hours and receive complaints regarding violation of code of conduct, polling stations, etc. A spokesman for the commission said that the general public or candidates could file their complaints regarding breach of code of conduct by any individual or party to the commission on telephone numbers: 051-9210801, 051-9210802, 051-9210803, 051-9210804 and 051-9210805. Meanwhile, the ECP has decided to hold fresh polling at 42 polling stations in NA-250 Karachi-XIII, Sindh Assembly PS-112 Karachi-XXIV and PS-113 Karachi-XXV. This has been decided keeping in view the proposal of the district returning officer for stopping of polling in certain polling stations of NA-250 Karachi-XIII, PS-112 Karachi-XXIV and PS-113 Karachi-XXV. According to the request, the polling process could not be commenced until 2pm. Therefore, it has been directed that polling at stations 4, 7, 11, 48, 52, 56, 57, 58, 60, 62, 78, 97, 98, 100, 101, 104, 106, 110, 113, 114, 115, 117, 121, 122, 131, 135, 136, 137, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 148, 157, 165, 168, 175, 177, 179 and 180 of the said constituencies shall be stopped. The new date for polling in the said stations shall be notified separately, an EC order mentioned.

**Daily Times - May 12, 2013**

### **ECP Seeks Reports on Allegations of Rigging**

After a meeting, ECP Secretary Ishtiaq Ahmed Khan said that the date for re-elections in 43 polling stations of NA-250 Karachi would be announced soon. The commission had withheld polling at these stations following massive irregularities. There also were reports of rigging in some other polling stations of Karachi, he added. Returning officers and provincial election commissioners have been asked to submit their reports in this regard, he added. Khan said if someone in other constituencies across the country had any evidence of rigging, they could approach the commission. He added that the ECP had already notified tribunals in all provinces to hear post-election petitions. Five tribunals in Punjab and three each in other three provinces have been set up to analyze rigging complaints. Under the new law, these tribunals have to make decisions on petitions within 120 days. Under the law, a candidate for National Assembly has to limit his election expenses to Rs1.5million, while provincial assembly candidates have a limit of Rs1million. These limits, however, are considered irrational and are rarely followed. The ECP had directed contestants to open separate bank accounts for election expenses and meet all election expenses through it.

**The Express Tribune - May 14, 2013**

### **Re-Polling Recommended In Constituencies Where Women Were Not Allowed To Vote**

A team of election monitors have demanded that polls be declared void in constituencies where women were barred from voting. Gender Concerns International demanded that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) nullify the results and call fresh elections in every constituency where women were barred from voting due to flagrant violations of the ECP's code of conduct. The demand was made during a press conference organized to share the preliminary findings of the Gender Election Monitoring (GEM) mission, a joint operation by the Aurat Foundation and Dutch NGO Gender Concerns International. The GEM mission sent out 100 domestic and 10 international observers to monitor election activities at 555 women's polling stations nationwide from a gender perspective. Sabra Bano, the head of the GEM mission, started with the positives, such as the fact that in Sargodha, women voted for the first time in history in Lilliani and Moazamabad union councils. In Upper Dir, only one woman in Darora union council cast her vote; while in six polling stations in Lower Dir saw not even a single woman voted. The situation was no different in NA-28 Buner, where women only cast votes in 10 out of 27 union councils, and parts of NA-5 Nowshera, NA-10 Mardan, NA-22 Battagram, NA-25 Dera Ismail Khan, and NA-35 Malakand, where women were not allowed to vote at many polling stations. The report identifies a few polling stations where female polling officers were being 'assisted' by their husbands or fathers. The police and security staff at female polling stations were mostly male, and not always aware of the exact procedures, which the report explains with an example that observers were allowed to enter polling places before they opened and were also allowed to assist in counting votes. It adds that there were cases where security staff did not allow women with children to enter polling stations. Finally, the report cites urban women as having 'average' knowledge of voting procedures, but in rural areas and rural suburbs, women generally lacked information about voting, which "many political party agents have been found taking advantage of".

**The Express Tribune - May 14, 2013**

### **Irregularities: Thumbprint Verification to Begin in Two Weeks, Says ECP**

ECP Secretary Ishtiaque Ahmed said in a news briefing that following an appeal by the poll supervisory body NADRA had agreed to boost the capacity of its verification system. The system has been introduced in an effort to curb the possibility of vote-rigging. In all, the ECP has received 110 complaints about alleged irregularities in the May 11 elections, Ishtiaque Ahmed said. The poll body reviewed reports of the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) regarding over 100% voter turnout at polling stations. ECP secretary added that if the voter turnout at these polling stations was normal then the FAFEN record would be investigated. But he promised that action would be taken against presiding officers if they were found to be at fault. Recounting, according to him, had been ordered in nine constituencies and complaints put forward by the PTI chairman would also be considered. The election commission secretary told reporters that a decision regarding NA-250 would also be made. Kayani assures security for May 19 re-polling. Barely three days before re-polling is to be conducted in some polling stations of Karachi, army chief General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and Chief Election Commissioner Fakhruddin G Ebrahim held a meeting to discuss security arrangements. The army chief assured the chief election commissioner of his support in providing assistance for the re-polling in some stations on May 19 in different constituencies, particularly in some parts of Karachi, where elections were cancelled due to rigging. A close aide to the CEC told that General Kayani assured Ebrahim that the army will follow the election commission's instructions to ensure fair and transparent re-polling.

**The Express Tribune - May 17, 2013**

## **Political Parties**

### **Pakistan People's Party (PPP)**

#### **Saasi Palejo Losses at PS 85**

Before the recount, independent candidate Syed Ameer Haider Shah Shirazi had received 21,500 votes and Palejo secured 20,674 votes. However, after the recount, Shirazi secured 20,050 votes and Palejo obtained 19,750 votes. The election commission had ordered the vote recount on Palejo's appeal. Meanwhile, the election commission rejected an application for recounting in PP-42. As per media reports, independent candidate Khuda Bakhsh Tiwana and PML-N candidate Waris Kaloo contested the election in PP-42, and the latter won the polls with the margin of 661 votes. Tiwana filed an application, seeking recounting of votes due to alleged rigging. The election commission, while rejecting Tiwana's plea, issued a notification regarding the success of Waris Kaloo. Moreover, the Election Commission of Pakistan has ordered the recount of votes at seven polling stations in the PP-198 Multan constituency. According to reports, the decision came after the request of PTI candidate Nawab Zada Waseem Khan Bado Zai. It may be recalled that PML-N candidate Peerzada Mian Shahzad Maqbool Bhutta was declared winner from PP-198 Multan after securing 32,394 votes.

**Daily Times - May 19, 2013**

#### **PPP Balochistan President Resigns**

Talking to journalists here, Mir Saddiq Umrani said that he had tendered his resignation to Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and President Asif Ali Zardari. He further said that some party

members had interfered in party affairs, which led to his resignation. “In 2008 when the party came into power, the party leadership did not take any positive steps to resolve the Balochistan issue and the actual party leaders, who had rendered many sacrifices for the party, were neglected by party leadership,” Saddiq Umrani said outlining his grievances against party leadership. He said the wrong policies of PPP led to its defeat in the province. He also accused ECP of changing the final result of PB-28, leading to his defeat in the polls and murder of dozens of voters by unknown persons. He said that many polling stations came under attack in his constituency and his voters were kept away from polling stations, adding that 90% of women were kept away from voting and he had registered FIRs in many police stations. Saddiq Umrani boasted of 33 years of political relations with slain party leader Benazir Bhutto with avowed determination to continue her mission ahead. “Elections in Balochistan were not free and fair and I cannot continue the party matters ahead and therefore, resign from the party,” said Umrani

Daily Times - May 22, 2013

### Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML - N)

#### PML-N Watchdog to Monitor Electioneering

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has set up a three-member committee for monitoring and improvement of ongoing election campaign of different constituencies of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Leading business personality Hamid Mir has been appointed head of the Committee whereas Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader, well-known social activist & philanthropist Dr. Jamal Nasir and Sharjeel Mir of Markazi Anjuman Tajiran have been named members of the committee. The committee held its first meeting in Islamabad on Thursday and spelled out the tasks the committees will carry out including surveying each national & provincial assembly constituency (Islamabad & Rawalpindi) and documenting the visual presence of promotional material and performance of PML-N candidates in promoting their party and candidacy. The committee would also document their door-to-door canvassing activities together with activities for motivating and rejuvenating party workers and supporters in the form of rallies and corner meetings. In addition to that, the committee would identify weak areas and absence of promotional material in the form of banners and posters so that the central party office could assist candidates where needed.

Dawn - May 03, 2013

#### PML-N Suspends Campaign for a Day

“I will not hold election campaign tomorrow to express solidarity with injured Imran Khan. We are kind-hearted and humane people and always care even for our enemies,” Mr. Sharif told an election rally in Liaquat Bagh. He asked the crowd to pray for early recovery of Mr. Khan. He said he had asked Shahbaz Sharif to go to the hospital to which Mr Khan had been admitted and express best wishes on behalf of the PML-N and its workers and supporters. “We want to see him in the arena soon,” the PML-N chief said. President Asif Ali Zardari sent a bouquet for the PTI chief, while leaders of the PML-Q, Jamaat-i-Islami, ANP, JUI-F, MQM and people from various walks of life expressed their best wishes for Mr Khan and prayed for his early recovery.

Dawn - May 08, 2013

### **Post 9/11 Pakistan: A Huge Challenge for Nawaz**

Prime minister-in-making Nawaz Sharif is set to start his innings from where he left it on October 12, 1999. But over the last 12 years, Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has emerged as a new force against him, replacing the Pakistan People's Party, at least in Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Sharif faces far greater challenges today than those he faced during his last tenure as premier. Post-9/11 Pakistan is far more difficult to govern and the issue of terrorism was far easier to handle in 1997 than in 2013. There was no insurgency in Balochistan a decade ago and Karachi was not a volcano waiting to explode like it is today. Despite its victory in the centre and Punjab, the situation will still be tough for a PML-N government. It is likely to encounter opposition from the governments in Sindh and K-P. With PPP still enjoying a majority in the Senate, Nawaz may also find it difficult to pass legislation in Parliament. Although PTI could not perform well in Punjab as it did in K-P, those elected on its ticket from the former province are veteran politicians like Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Jehangir Tareen and Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, rather than youngsters. The party's success in K-P, meanwhile, was largely due its bold stance against US drone strikes in the tribal areas and the war on terror – issues which have marred both Awami National Party and PPP's reputation in the province. PTI should be satisfied with its performance in the 2013 elections and consider it a victory. The last time the party contested the polls in 2002, only Imran Khan managed to win a seat. PPP last performed poorly in 1997, when it managed to win only 18 seats the National Assembly. Although the party bounced back in 2002, thanks to the charismatic presence of Benazir Bhutto, its mandate was hijacked by then president Pervez Musharraf, who formed the new PPP-Patriots. Following Benazir's assassination in 2007, her husband Asif Ali Zardari emerged as party's figurehead and saw it to victory in the 2008 elections. PPP's subsequent five-year term, however, has damaged the public's perception of the party and diminished its vote-bank, particularly in South Punjab. Bad governance, allegations of corruption, infighting and its own decision to all but concede Punjab led to a complete washout in the 2013 polls. PPP may also find it difficult to bounce back since it lacks any charismatic leader this time around.

**The Express Tribune - May 13, 2013**

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### **Celebrations and Anger: City Witnesses Mixed Reactions**

PML-N supporters wearing lion marked headbands and weaving flags out of their vehicles and motorbikes marched on the city roads on in a victory festive. On the other hand disheartened PTI activists and supporters came on roads to get away with their frustration because most of them were not ready to accept defeat as they were emotionally charged. In contrast to the PML-N supporters' celebrations, PTI workers and voters remained emotionally charged throughout the day as they were expecting many seats in the city especially in NA-122, NA-125 and NA-128. Faheem, who works at a private company, said that he was disappointed with the results. He voted for the first time in elections and was not fully satisfied with the results. Faheem who voted in Lahore from NA-128 said there were many irregularities at the polling station, including goons from the other party creating hurdles for PTI voters from casting their votes.

**Daily Times - May 13, 2013**

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## Major Issues Nawaz’s Government Will Face

The winner of historic elections, Nawaz Sharif, faces a host of problems, including faltering economic growth, worsening energy shortages and continued attacks by militants.

- **FALTERING ECONOMY:** The economy has grown at less than 4 per cent a year under the most recent government led by the PPP. That is much lower than the rates during the previous administration, which at times hovered near 7pc. Under the most recent government, inflation spiked, reaching an annualized rate of around 25pc in some months.
- **ENERGY SHORTAGES:** Electricity shortages nearly doubled under the PPP compared with the previous administration. Some places in the country suffer blackouts for up to 18 hours a day during summer months. The country also has experienced increased shortages of natural gas, which were felt acutely during the winter because many people rely on natural gas to heat their homes as well as cook. Spending on energy subsidies and failing public enterprises has helped sap the government’s funds, which are much lower than they should be because of ineffective tax collection. The combination of these factors means the government will likely have to seek yet another unpopular bailout from the International Monetary Fund.
- **TALIBAN ATTACKS:** The military has launched several operations against the Pakistani Taliban in the northwest tribal region along the Afghan border during the past five years. Analysts say the operations and US drone attacks against militants in the tribal region have helped produce a significant decline in overall levels of violence in 2011 and 2012. But the Taliban have remained a potent threat, including during the election campaign. The group carried out near-daily attacks against election candidates and offices that killed more than 130 people. The militants mostly targeted liberal secular parties that supported operations against the Taliban. Sectarian violence by radical militants against minority Shias also has significantly worsened in recent months. “(Sharif) needs to solve the issue of terrorism and other problems crippling the economy. If he delivers quickly, fair enough, if not then he will face crisis and criticism,” pundit Hasan Askari said. The election failed to realize the hopes of many that the hold of patronage-based parties would end after years of misrule and corruption. Mr Sharif has said the army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its turbulent 66-year history, should stay out of politics. But he will have to work with generals, who set foreign and security policy and will manage the country’s thorny relationship with the United States as Nato troops withdraw from Afghanistan in 2014. Mr. Sharif also believes Pakistan should reconsider its support for the US war on militancy. Mr. Sharif, who advocates free-market economics, is likely to pursue privatization and deregulation to revive flagging growth. The PML-N leader has said he could do business with the IMF, meaning he may be open to reforms like an easing of subsidies and a widening of the country’s tiny tax base to secure billions of dollars from the global lender.
- **RELATIONS WITH ARMY:** Mr. Sharif’s last term as prime minister came to an abrupt and ignominious end in 1999 when he was deposed in a coup led by Gen Pervez Musharraf. He was sentenced to life in prison by a military court before being allowed to go into exile in Saudi Arabia. Political analyst A.H. Nayer said talk of a potential clash between Mr Sharif and the military was overblown. “I think the army will have to back the government, they have no choice,” he said. “I think Sharif’s government will come out with an impression that it is not against the army as an organization — he was against only one general who staged a coup.” The 63-year-old’s unprecedented third term as prime minister results from widespread unhappiness with the PPP government, but also

from the performance of the PML-N in Punjab. During two tenures in the 1990s the PML-N built the country's only motorway. During its rule of Punjab over the past five years it created new roads and bridges for Lahore and a city metro-bus system — the first proper urban public transport system in the country. It has also targeted young voters with scholarships and free laptops. Mr. Sharif went into the election promising to transform the economy, end corruption in state-owned enterprises, build a motorway from Lahore to Karachi and launches a bullet train.

Dawn Times - May 13, 2013

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### **Protests Dynastic Politics: PML-Q Women's Wing Chief Resigns**

Protesting against dynastic political practices, Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q)'s women wing's president, Farrukh Khan, has resigned from the party, ending her 12-year association. A source inside the party told APP that Farrukh Khan objected to the party leadership's decision of naming close relatives for reserved seats for women. When her protest was overlooked and close relatives of the party's top brass were nominated, she quietly resigned.

The Express Tribune - May 17, 2013

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### **Assembled: PML-N All Set To Present Budget**

"We are waiting for the first National Assembly session, which should be summoned at the earliest, to introduce the budget" PML-N information Secretary Senator Mushahidullah Khan. Responding to a question on how well the PML-N was prepared for this, Khan said that the PML-N "has completed its homework". The PML-N Deputy Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal, when asked about his party's top priorities in terms of addressing the daunting issues faced by the country, admitted that choosing priorities was a difficult task and said, "Tackling the power crisis is definitely important, and reviving the economy and dealing with peace and security are equally important." Furthermore, during the first session, which is likely to take place during the last week of May, the newly elected lawmakers would take oath. However, oath-taking will take place only after the poll body formally releases the official results. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will issue notifications only after the winning candidates submit details of their election expenses in the prescribed manner.

The Express Tribune - May 17, 2013

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### **More Independents Join PML-N**

MPAs-elect Ijaz Shirazi, Husain Shirazi and Ali Haider Shirazi and MNA-elect Ayaz Shah Shirazi announced their decision after calling on PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif and former Punjab chief minister Shahbaz Sharif here. The Shirazis remained with the PPP until 2012 and contested the May 11 elections as independent candidates. Four independent MPAs-elect from Punjab— Amir M. Khan, Shoaib Shah, Alamdar Shah and Khurram Sial —also announced their decision to join the PML-N after calling on Shahbaz Sharif. Meanwhile, the PML-N said that Nawaz Sharif would be attending the luncheon to be hosted by President Asif Ali Zardari in honour of Chinese premier next week. British High Commissioner Adam Thomson called on Nawaz Sharif here and congratulated him on the victory of his party in the May 11 elections.

Dawn - May 19, 2013

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**Dialogue with Taliban Best Option, Says Nawaz**

Contrary to the military's stand on the war against terrorism, PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif considers dialogue with militants as the best option to restore peace in the country. "Forty thousand precious lives have so far been lost and the national economy is suffering a loss of billions of dollars (in the war against terrorism). Why should not (we) sit for a dialogue to restore peace," the chief executive of the incoming government told his party's legislators-elect at a ceremony. He said gun was not a solution to any problem, adding that the Taliban's offer for dialogue should be taken seriously. Every option should be explored to bring an end to the ongoing carnage in Karachi and tribal areas, he suggested. The Taliban avoided attacking the N-League during its election campaign. Amid applause from the audience, Mr. Sharif reiterated his position of wholeheartedly accepting the mandate of other parties.

Dawn - May 21, 2013

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**PML-N Plans To Bring Tax-Free Budget for 2013-14**

PML-N President Mian Nawaz Sharif, who is likely to get premiership for the next term after gaining majority in the May 11 elections, has shown commitment to present a tax-free budget for the next fiscal year 2013-14 with slashing 30 percent government expenditures. He expressed this hope while holding an important meeting of his party think tanks, economic experts and some local as well as foreign investors on energy and financial crisis and solutions. Caretaker Minister for Water and Power Dr Mussadik Malik also visited Sharif and briefed about the current crisis facing the country. The meeting was held at Sharif's residence in Raiwind Farms. According to the PML-N sources, the meeting mostly discussed the issue of load shedding and different options to overcome it. It also discussed some short and medium terms steps that could be taken in this regard. During the meeting, the experts were convinced to lessen load shedding through foreign investments.

Daily Times - May 22, 2013

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**PML-N to Delay Budgets by A Few Weeks**

The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) government in the Punjab, as well as the Centre, is likely to delay the budget for 2013-14 by three or four weeks. The participants in the meeting decided to advise the government in Islamabad to delay the federal budget. The provincial budgets are presented after the federal budget. Sharif added that the meeting had set general principles for the provincial budget and these would be developed at the next meeting. These included a focus on electricity production, cuts to non-development expenditure and better water management. The meeting focused on the extreme electricity shortage. The participants suggested that "all available fiscal space" in the budget should be devoted to tackling the energy crisis. Much of the annual provincial development budget would be allocated to the energy sector. The aim would be to completely erase load shedding in the Punjab. The Punjab government would make the same commitment as the federal government to reduce non-development expenditure by 30 per cent. A freeze initiated by the last government on the purchase of new vehicles and furniture for government offices would continue. The provision of clean drinking water in rural and urban areas was also noted as a budget priority. The government would take steps to check the stealing of irrigation water. He said that Metro Bus services would be introduced in all major cities in the Punjab and the Ashiana Housing scheme, laptop scheme and youth initiatives would continue. Addressing the meeting, he said that the

PML-N believed in practical work rather than theoretical promises. Any party would be proud at the five-year term of the previous Punjab government. He said that education will remain a high priority for the provincial government. Rs700 billion will be spent on education during the next five years,” he said.

**The Express Tribune - May 23, 2013**

### **Shahbaz to Be Punjab CM for the Third Time**

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif nominated his brother Shahbaz Sharif as the Punjab chief minister for third-term. It is a unique distinction of the Sharif brothers that they will hold the highest office of the province for the fifth time, as earlier, Nawaz held the office twice in 1985 and 1988, and later, Shahbaz served on the same position in 1997 and 2008. PML-N sources confirmed that Shahbaz Sharif, who has not only won three provincial seats – PP-159 and PP-161 from Lahore and PP-247 from Rajanpur – but has also bagged two National Assembly seat in the recent election, would now leave the National Assembly seats and serve the people of Punjab as the chief minister. Sources were of the view that Shahbaz Sharif would likely be elected the chief minister in Punjab Assembly on June 1, soon after the election of the speaker, and the deputy speaker of the provincial assembly.

**Daily Times - May 24, 2013**

### **Zafarullah Jamali joins PML-N**

Former prime minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali joined the PML-N after meeting prime minister-in-waiting Nawaz Sharif in Raiwind on Saturday. Talking to reporters after the meeting, Mr Jamali said he had joined the PML-N unconditionally. He said he discussed with Mr Sharif political matters, including possible candidates for the slot of the chief minister of Balochistan. He said loadshedding was the biggest problem facing the country today. Meanwhile, the PML-N committee on economic affairs submitted its report to Mr Sharif. It reportedly recommended sale of government land and privatization of some public sector organizations to enhance revenue.

**Dawn - May 26, 2013**

## **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)**

### **PTI Never Asked Qadianis for Votes**

“PTI and I have never asked her to undertake any such task and neither is Nadia an elected representative of PTI’s UK chapter. Neither I nor PTI have ever asked anybody to especially ask for Qadiani votes for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. This would be against the Representation of the People Act, 1976 and instructions of the Election Commission of Pakistan.” Imran Khan, Chairman PTI. Khan said he had an absolute belief in the finality of Prophet Muhammad PBUH. Anyone claiming Prophet Hood after him is a liar. This belief of mine is the same as that of the entire Muslim Ummah. It is not part of the PTI agenda to seek amendment of the said article in the Constitution. Imran Khan appealed to the people not to fall prey to the malicious campaign being put out by some Ulema against him and his Party in this regard. “This is a political conspiracy against me as a person and PTI as a party”. He pointed out that “those Ulema who label me ‘Kafir’ and tell people that voting for PTI is ‘Haram’ in their Fatwas would have been

better advised to follow the rules relating to giving of fatwas and ascertained my belief before issuing the same”.

**The News - May 02, 2013**

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### **PML-N, JUI-F and PPP Together Cannot Defeat PTI: Hashmi**

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Makhdoom Javed Hashmi vowed that Sharif brothers, Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman and President Asif Ali Zardari together could not face PTI chairman Imran Khan, adding that all the ruling parties would face the wrath for their wrongdoings on May 11. Addressing a public gathering here at Golra Sharif during his aggressive election campaigning, the PTI stalwart and candidate from NA-48 said that Imran Khan’s message for change now reached every nook and corner of the country and people were eager to vote for the PTI. Javed Hashmi told the crowd that he always opposed the system of brutality for the welfare of the poor masses, adding that talking about the rights and welfare of the poverty-stricken and inflation-ridden was actually ‘Hussaniat’. Flaying Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) leadership, the PTI stalwart said that the PML-N became the party of looters and plunderers and they would face the music in the coming elections. He said that the duplicity of the PML-N leadership became an established facts, as during their recent election campaigning they promised the people of Southern Punjab that they would be provided with ‘cheap loans, iron and Yalow cabs’, while addressing public gatherings in central Punjab they promised the masses that would be given industries, metro bus and employment if they were voted to power. Imran Khan was supposed to address a historical public gathering here at D-Chowk on May 9, which will prove the last nail in the coffin of the corrupt and greedy political leadership, who have been creating havoc with the country’s resources and its people. He held out assurance to the participants that the PTI government would establish exemplary peace in the country and the unabated drone strikes inside Pakistan would no more take place, vowing that the US drones would be hit if it could not stop carrying out attacks inside Pakistani territory. The PTI President said that the whole world is in a state of surprise to see the rising graph of PTI and its leader Imran Khan. Javed Hashmi said the previous federal and provincial governments were responsible for the current problems being faced by the country, vowing that the PTI government would leave no stone unturned to address their grievances by devolving powers to the grass root level.

**Daily Times - May 07, 2013**

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### **PTI’s Victory: KP Keeps Its Tradition of Political Change Alive**

The electorates of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have kept alive their electoral tradition and brought a significant political change in the province by voting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in the general elections. According to unofficial results, PTI has emerged as the single largest political party in the province by grabbing 27 provincial seats so far. The party had swept the general elections in Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, Swat, Hangu and Kohat districts besides clinching seats from Hazara region. In Peshawar, the party has grabbed all the four national and provincial assembly constituencies. PTI Chairman Imran Khan won from NA-1, Engineer Hamidul Haq on NA-2, Sajid Nawaz on NA-3 and Gulzar Khan on NA-4, defeating their rivals with overwhelming majority. The major upset in the general elections was the defeat of former federal minister and ANP stalwart Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour at the hands of Imran Khan on NA-1.

**Daily Times - May 13, 2013**

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### **Fazl Moves to Keep PTI Out Of Power**

Living up to its reputation, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is again heading for a coalition government, triggering a race among parties to out-manoeuvre each other and gather partners. As predicted, the results have been fractious though interesting, giving the major contenders a chance to have a shot at forming the provincial government. But of all the parties, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf with a tally of 35 seats is in a stronger position to form the government. From the look of it, if the PTI does make an effort to form the next government, it could look up to the independents and the seven Jamaat-i-Islami members. The JUI-F leader, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, has already taken the initiative and spoken to PML-N chief Mian Nawaz Sharif on the possibility of forming the government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The JUI-F has secured 13 seats and is leading in another two whose results are awaited, which may raise its strength to 15. The PML-N has 12 seats. Fazlur Rehman can speak to Sherpao, with whom he had seat adjustment in Charasadda. Maulana Fazl told reporters in Dera Ismail Khan that he had spoken to the PML-N chief and the two parties agreed to explore the possibility. “We can speak to Sherpao too.” The PTI and the JUI-F have begun efforts to woo Mr Sherpao and it is learnt that JUI’s nominee for chief minister, former CM Akram Khan Durrani, was on his way to meet the former interior minister to mull over the issue. And when it comes to realpolitik, Fazlur Rehman will have no qualms in aligning with either his former partner Jamaat-i-Islami, the ANP, PPP or retired Gen Pervez Musharraf’s lone MPA from Chitral. So far, the PML-N leadership has not come up with any formal announcement in this regard. Its senior leader and former chief minister Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Khan said if he was asked for his opinion he would like implement its program and show if it can serve as a role model for the rest of Pakistan,” the Sardar from Bakote said. But in the final analysis, what may become the sole influencing and motivating factor for the political parties – except the PTI — to support the JUI-F move would be the PML-N government in Islamabad and its equation and relationship with any government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Daily Times - May 13, 2013

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### **Imran Seeks Action against Altaf**

Mr. Khan, PTI sources said, asked the British envoy that the UK should take action against Muttahida Qaumi Movement leader Altaf Hussain for inciting the people of Karachi to violence. He said British laws did not allow any British citizen to use the country against inciting terrorism or violence in other countries. Mr Khan called for a warning to be issued to the MQM leader for making ‘inflammatory speeches’.

Dawn - May 18, 2013

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### **Imran Holds Muttahida Responsible For Murder**

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan has condemned the killing of Zohra Shahid Hussain and held the Muttahida Qaumi Movement responsible for it. MQM Chief Altaf Hussain had threatened PTI workers and leaders in a speech aired by TV channels. Mr Khan said the British government shared responsibility for the killing because it had failed to stop Mr. Hussain from inciting violence despite being requested to do so. He said Zohra Aapa, as Ms Hussain was fondly called by her comrades, was an elderly person, a senior, committed and ideological leader and a mentor of young cadre of the PTI.

Dawn - May 19, 2013

### **PTI Candidate Retains PK-10 Seat after Vote Recount**

A Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate for provincial assembly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa retained PK-10 seat after vote recount. Awami National Party (ANP) candidate Khushdil Khan had pleaded for vote recount on PK-10 after PTI's Shah Farman's lead in polls. The returning officer recounted the votes; however, Shah Farman retained the lead with 1,300 ballots. Later, the Elections Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued a notification of the PTI candidate's win. Meanwhile, the ECP has ordered the recounting of votes in NA-103. PML-N candidate Mian Shahid Hussain Bhatti had alleged that bogus votes were cast in the polling stations by his rival candidate (independent) Ch Liaqat Abbas Bhatti, who has also recently joined the PML-N. According to official sources, the ECP has ordered recounting of votes within three days.

**Daily Times - May 20, 2013**

### **PTI's Abrar Files Plea in SC against 'Rigging' In NA-117**

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Youth Wing President Abrarul Haq filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the alleged rigging in elections in NA-117, Narowal-III, calling for re-election in the constituency. In his constitutional petition, filed under Article 184 (3) of the constitution, Haq requested the apex court to declare the election in the constituency as unlawful, illegal and void. He prayed for the suspension of the notification of winning candidate from NA-117 till the disposal of his petition. The PTI leader made the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Narowal district returning officer (DRO), returning officer, district police officer, district coordination officer and PML-N's winning candidate from the said constituency, Ahsan Iqbal, as respondents. Abrar has pled that rigging had taken place in NA-117 and several bogus votes were cast therein and an attempt was made to steal the mandate of PTI. He has contended that he was winning the election with an overwhelming majority before the arrival of results from polling stations but he was declared unsuccessful when the final result was announced. He prayed the court to cancel the polls held in his constituency and order re-election in the entire constituency.

**Daily Times - May 21, 2013**

## **Muthida Qaumi Movement (MQM)**

### **Lashing Out: Detach Karachi If You Don't Accept Our Mandate, Says Altaf**

A day after historic elections in the country, the headquarters of Karachi's largest political force, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) was adorned with lights and garlands to celebrate their victory. But in his first speech after elections, MQM chief Altaf Hussain was not in a festive mood. Enraged by what he called "false accusations" of rigging, Altaf warned the establishment to respect the mandate of Karachi. Painting a bleak picture, he said that if this mandate of the people was unacceptable to the establishment then instead of hurling abuses at the party, they should separate the city from the country. He said there was a limit to tolerating false accusations against the party. Responding to accusations of rigging by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and others, he said, "If you claim that we have rigged the elections in Karachi, where did the tsunami go in Punjab?" He said that if parties want to criticize them then they should do so with proofs, and not indulge in abusive language. Listing the party's middle class credential, the MQM chief lashed out at protesting PTI activists gathered at Teen Talwar in Clifton calling them the "burger" class. "I don't want to fight with you; otherwise my people

could have turned the symbolic Teen Talwar into real sword on one order of mine.” Delivering a fiery speech, the MQM chief warned, “You are playing with fire. If you don’t stop hatred towards Karachi and MQM, then this fire will spread all over the country.” Taking the former ruling party to task, Altaf said that had the MQM not supported Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) despite having grievances, the PPP coalition government wouldn’t have lasted more than a year. He reminded his supporters that despite deaths, bombings and threats the highest number of MQM voters had risked their lives to vote. He alleged that the media was showing anti-MQM demonstrators but did not speak of the thousands of MQM voters who turned up to support the party on polling day. “If media and politicians continue their conspiracies against us then...we will break their arms,” he warned. MQM leader said that his party had secured 10,000 votes in Punjab and would sweep the next elections. In a warning directed at the election commission, Altaf asked the commission to take ‘just’ decisions. Wrapping up his speech, the MQM chief said that he only had love for his people but warned once again that “If only Punjab is considered the entire country, then the future would be disastrous.”

The Express Tribune - May 13, 2013

### **Karachi Committee of MQM Dissolved**

Muttahida Qaumi Movement chief Altaf Hussain on Tuesday dissolved a key party wing, the ‘Karachi Tanzeemi (organising) Committee’, in view of numerous complaints against it. The announcement was made at a workers’ convention held at the Lal Qila Ground in Azizabad. Unlike the past, the MQM did not invite the media to cover the event. According to a press release, Mr Hussain addressed a meeting of workers of units and sectors of the MQM in Karachi and all organizational wings and office-bearers of various committees from London by phone and discussed a number of issues. “On the complaints of workers, Mr Hussain immediately dissolved the Karachi Tanzeemi Committee of the MQM,” it said. Other organizational issues highlighted by workers were also being considered and another general workers’ meeting had been scheduled for Saturday, the statement said, adding that more decisions would be taken then. It said that Mr Hussain had appealed to all dejected senior and sincere workers to return to the party fold for the better future of the movement and the nation. He said that all workers who had become inactive for any reason but “whose conscience was satisfied that they never indulged in acts of dishonesty, nor betrayed, nor had any vested interests while remaining in the party” should return to it.

Dawn - May 22, 2013

## **Independent Candidates & Other Parties**

### **Maulana Samiul Haq Says Voting a Religious Obligation**

Voting isn’t just a democratic duty, but a religious one as well. This is what Maulana Samiul Haq, the head of Darul Uloom Haqqania, said while strongly rejecting the Taliban’s view of voting as being ‘un-Islamic’. “Voting is an important Islamic Shariah. Refusing to cast votes is equivalent to concealing evidence and Islam calls upon giving evidence. Islam deems all those who conceal evidence to be guilty”. Maulana Samiul Haq, considered to be the teacher of many Afghan and Pakistan Taliban, said that asking people to boycott elections was an ‘unwise approach’ that the banned militant outfits were using. Samiul Haq, who is also the head of his own faction of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-S), cited verses from the Holy Quran and cited Shariah law to support his view, while also appealing to clerics to use their Friday sermons to encourage people to

participate in the elections. But at the same time, the JUI-S leader warned that the “liberal” parties were taking advantage of the attacks, saying that if the Taliban continued their campaign of violence then voters might cast votes in favor of these political parties out of sympathy. “These parties are now facing the consequences of what they have done. They (Taliban) consider them as their enemies and American agents,” Samiul Haq said, adding that the leaders of the three former allies in the ruling coalition had not anticipated the outcome of the policies they pursued.

The Taliban have continued attacks on the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP), Awami National Party (ANP) and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) for what they called their ‘secular doctrine’ and their support for operations against the militants in the tribal regions and Swat valley. Pakistani Taliban and other armed militant groups have carried out more than 20 pre-election attacks on political parties, killing 46 people and wounding over 190 since April 21, Human Rights Watch has said. On March 18, a spokesperson for the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan declared elections part of an “un-Islamic democratic system which only serves the interests of infidels and enemies of Islam,” and warned voters to stay away from political rallies held by the parties. The rights group stated on Monday that PPP, MQM and the ANP were particularly at risk. Earlier in April, another 24 people were killed and over 100 injured in election-related attacks. Samiul-Haq said “By asking people not to cast votes they (Taliban) will leave the field open for bad people to enter the parliament,” he said, adding that the vote should not be cast on the basis of money, community, ethnicity, family and tribe but as an asset to be given to pious people. He said the decree was the summary of several issued edicts by different school of thoughts. Taliban spokesman, Ehsanullah Ehsan, had rejected the fatwa, describing it as a figment of Tahir Ashrafi’s imagination.

**The Express Tribune - May 01, 2013**

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### **Most Independent MPAs Join Parties**

Twelve of the 14 independent members-elect of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly have submitted affidavits to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) regarding their joining of political parties. Nine of them joined Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf (PTI) increasing its strength in the House to 44. ECP had fixed May 25 as the last day to submit affidavits by successful candidates for joining a political party. The provincial election commissioner said political parties had already submitted priority lists of their candidates for seats reserved for women and non-Muslim in the provincial assembly as well as seats reserved for women in the National Assembly from the province. Under the Constitution, if an independent MNA or MPA joins a political party within three days after issuance of the gazette notification of the returned candidates, his or her seat will be counted among general seats won by the said political party and will be counted for the purpose of filling reserved seats. It also states 22 seats are reserved for women and three for non-Muslim in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, while and eight seats are reserved for women in the National Assembly from the province. There are 99 general seats in the provincial assembly. Of the 14 independent MPAs-elect, nine have formally joined PTI, while one joined Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Qaumi Watan Party of Aftab Ahmad Sherpao and Swabi-based Awami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan each.

**Dawn - May 26, 2013**

## Women Candidates – Nominated & Contesting

### In Lakki Marwat, Women in Vanguard of ANP Campaign

(If the youth fails, Dear motherland, the girls will guard you), this old Pashto Tapa (form of poetry) pays tribute both to the Pakhtuns' love for their homeland, and also to their indomitable spirit. In essence it means that defeat is unacceptable to the Pakhtuns. The Awami National Party, it seems, has taken this maxim to heart, remaining adamant not only in the face of competition from other parties but also in the face of constant militant attacks and threats. And in keeping with the couplet, it is the women of the ANP that are leading the charge, at least as far as Lakki Marwat is concerned. "Our campaigners focus on the women of the households who then go on to convince the men in their family," Yasmeen Zai, a former MPA from K-P. Her husband, Advocate Sadrauddin is contesting on PK-74 on an ANP ticket. These legions of female campaigners cover entire neighborhoods armed only with red pamphlets which include a message from the ANP, along with a list of the party's achievements. It's a strategy forced on them by necessity, as the ANP is not able to campaign like other parties in the face of terrorist attacks. Their opponents are under no such constraints. The chief of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl recently held a public gathering in Lakki Marwat, while the party's workers are campaigning freely day and night. On the other hand, the ANP cannot hold large public meetings, and even corner meetings are often cancelled since the police have restricted their movement due to the security threats. Aftab Munawar, a female ANP leader and worker said that this is the time for the ANP's rank and file to stand up and be counted. "I know that some people will say that it is not right for women to take an active part in politics ... but it is not a sin to campaign for my party," she said. Advocate Sadrauddin said that he is running against JUI-F's Anwar Hayath and PPP's Anwar Saifullah, both of whom are able to campaign openly – something that he cannot do. And even if he were to be able to move about freely, he says it's a fact that the ANP's influence in Lakki Marwat is not as strong as that of the JUI-F's, which is why he is banking on the ANP's female campaigners to met his message to the people.

**The Express Tribune - May 01, 2013**

### Women's Political Participation High Priority for UN

"Supporting national efforts for inclusive political processes and promoting women's political participation is a high priority for the UN Women especially as Pakistan is signatory to international instruments and covenants, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)," said Sangeeta Thapa, Deputy Representative of UN Women, in her welcome address. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on 'Women's Participation in the Elections and Security Concerns'. Representatives of government and non-government organizations, international development partners, academicians and researchers participated in the discussion. Thapa raised concerns over the deteriorating law and order situation and said "security of women candidates and voters is a serious concern and the matter of highest priority to ensure fair and transparent election". Mark Andre, Country Director at UNDP, shared the significant achievements of the Electoral Cycle Support to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECAP) project. He said that the project, which was set up following a request by the ECP to the United Nations for electoral assistance, had taken an electoral cycle approach supporting the periods before, during and after elections. The project will be working on not only the current election but in the long run it will be gendering the whole cycle of elections to facilitate women's political participation, he added. Aamina Qadir

Adham, Senior Gender Advisor, UN Women, presented the data on women's candidacy in the forthcoming elections and shared that total percentage of women candidates in the National Assembly on general seats has increased by 3.4%. The number of women candidates on party seats has decreased by 10%, and a much larger percentage of women candidates have registered themselves as 'independent' candidates. Panelists Dr. Farzana Bari, Dr. Saba Gul Khattak and Usman Qazi emphasised that even though there are security challenges for all candidates the threats for women are multi-fold where social and cultural constraints, administrative issues and lack of interest in political process hinder women from exercising their right to cast a vote. It was recommended that the state as well as media and civil society play a greater role in facilitating women, particularly as candidates. It was also recommended that legislation should be in place to declare constituencies null and void where women have not cast their vote.

Dawn - May 03, 2013

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### **ANP Woman Activist Canvasses For Leaders**

"We won't let our brothers down and would work with men side by side in fight against terrorism." These were the words of former MPA and Awami National Party vice president Shagufta Malik during a 2009 convention on 'role of women in peace' at Nishtar Hall in the provincial capital. The 33-year-old is now turning out to be true to her words. Despite terrorist attacks against ANP rallies, she is busy campaigning for her party's senior leaders. Well versed in nationalist poetry and a good orator, Ms Shagufta is also prominent among ANP women workers as she has been tasked with going from door to door in ANP leader Asfandiyar Wali Khan's hometown to solicit votes for him. "I feel proud that I am canvassing for my leader," Ms Shagufta told Dawn on Saturday. Asfandiyar Wali, grandson of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan popularly known as Bacha Khan, has been advised by party workers not to go to his constituency for election campaign due to threats to his life. He'd barely escaped a terrorist attack in October 2008. ANP has lost around 750 leaders and workers to terrorism during the last couple of years. "I am busy with my leaders' election campaign. At times, I visit areas, where even it is risky for our male colleagues to go," said Ms Shagufta, who has been campaigning and visiting suburbs of Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan and Charsadda unannounced.

ANP has been targeted by militants almost in all these places. "My mother prays when I step out every day for election campaign," says Ms Shagufta, whose mother, too, hails from a family of Khuda-i-Khidnatgaars of Charsadda. She said she took part in canvassing even during the last elections but the situation had never been as risky as it was this time around. The ANP woman leader said the situation was difficult for the party this time as its workers were being attacked everywhere. She said party workers had advised Asfandiyar Wali against visiting his constituency since he was the party chief and the last male member of Bacha Khan's family left alive. Ms Shagufta said her party did not want to put its chief's life in danger to win the elections. The ANP leader said her was the only political party, which had a clear stand against and condemned those attacking and terrorizing innocent people. "Whether it is a woman or a man associated with Awami National Party, terrorists are attacking them but we won't back down," she said. Ms Shagufta said like other party workers, she was aware of threats to her life but had adopted a strategy under which she was in constant contact with the people by visiting them at their houses unannounced. "Women should step out and exercise their franchise as I tell them we have to die one day even if we stay home, so fear of death should not stop us from using our right to vote to elect the people who will provide us with security," she said. The ANP woman leader said despite threats to her life, she won't back out of her responsibility to campaign for senior leadership. Ms Shagufta, who belongs to Nowshera, has been active in politics since 2004.

She was the district councilor and ANP district vice president in 2005 and was later elected MPA on one of the seats reserved for women. Currently, she is on the third position at the ANP priority list for seats reserved for women in the province.

Dawn - May 05, 2013

### A Glance at Sindh's Female Hopefuls

Sindh has a long history of producing strong and well-known female politicians. Jethi Tulsidas Sipahimalani and Jenubai G. Allana were among the first women who won Sindh Assembly seats on general tickets, in the pre-partition era. Sipahimalani, who went on to become deputy speaker, played a significant role as a freedom fighter crusading for the rights of Sindhis in India after Partition. After Partition, Sindh produced several female politicians including Begum Ashraf Abbasi, Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto. Benazir became the first female prime minister in the Muslim World and Begum Bhutto remained her senior minister. Begum Abbasi became the first woman deputy speaker of the National Assembly.

- The first woman speaker, Dr Fehmida Mirza, hails from Badin district. Dr Mirza is contesting again on a general seat. Below are brief profiles of the female candidates who are contesting general seats in the 2013 elections. Fehmida Mirza, 57, was the 18th Speaker of the National Assembly during the previous government's tenure. She is the first woman to hold the office to date. Mirza hails from an influential Sindhi family and graduated from Liaquat Medial University in 1982 after which she practiced medicine. Before entering politics, Mirza was a successful businesswoman and leading chief executive of an advertising company based in Karachi, which focused on agricultural development in the country. The former speaker joined PPP as recently as 1997. Her father, Qazi Abdul Majeed Abid had been a former federal and provincial minister while her uncle, Qazi Mohammad Akbar, was a long serving provincial minister. Both brothers were owners of the influential Sindhi paper Ibrat. Mirza is the aunt of Pir Mazharul Haq, the former provincial education minister. Her husband, Zulfiqar Mirza, was previously Sindh's controversial home minister and once a close friend of President Asif Ali Zardari.
- Azra Fazal Pechuho, 57, a physician, is the younger sister of President Zardari and an influential PPP leader. She has been in the National Assembly since 2002, but was not a household name until Benazir's assassination in 2007. She then became the chancellor of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST). Before that her name popped up in the media when her car was fired on in Nawabshah in 2006 during a by-election. Later in the PPP government, Altaf Unnar, a former provincial minister, was arrested on the charge of being behind the attack and remained locked up for years, but is now free and a PPP candidate from Larkana.
- Faryal Talpur is another sister of President Zardari. Talpur participated in the Pakistani presidential election, 2007 as a PPP nominee and became an MNA for the first time after winning a by-election in the traditional constituency of Benazir Bhutto. Before that she was mayor of Benazirabad district. According to a Wiki leaks diplomatic cables leak in November 2010, fearing attempts on his life, President Zardari told ambassador Anne W. Patterson that in the event he were to be assassinated, he had instructed his son Bilawal Bhutto Zardari(who, along with Zardari, is the co-chairman of the PPP) to appoint Ms. Talpur as the president. In August 2009, Ms. Talpur and her husband Munawar, a former provincial minister, were appointed custodians of Benazir's property and guardian of her children.

- Sassui Palijo, 37, is a young liberal politician belonging to the PPP and a writer who writes in Sindhi. She was fielded for the first time on a general seat from Mirpur Sakro of district Thatta's PS-85 in 2002 that she won the second time in 2008 by a landslide once again. In 2008, she was the only directly elected female assembly member in Sindh out of 168 assembly members. She served as the provincial minister for culture in the last cabinet. She holds a BA degree from the University of Sindh and a law degree from London. Palijo has been an active rights campaigner. She was jailed several times during Musharraf's regime in Islamabad, Thatta, Karachi, Lahore and Thar for protesting against military rule. Palijo's mother, Akhtar Baloch, was the first female Pakistani political worker who was arrested during General Ayub Khan's martial law. Her grandmother, the late Zarina Baloch was an eminent writer, folk singer, teacher, actress, novelist and a political activist. Her father Ghulam Qadir Palijo, has been an MPA twice.
- Marvi Memon is contesting a general seat for the first time, and that too from Sindh. The last time Memon held a seat in the National Assembly was on a reserved seat for women from Punjab. To the dissatisfaction of PML-Q's Punjab cadres, they were the party who sent her to the lower house and then had to see her resign from both party membership and the NA seat in 2011. Memon was deeply disappointed over the party's decision to be part of the ruling coalition and refused to follow the party line in the passage of the 2012 budget. Memon, 41, is now a vocal PML-N leader and is contesting election on the NA-237 Thatta seat against PPP's Shams Nisa Memon and MQM's Heer Soho. She is also contesting on a provincial assembly seat against President Zardari's foster brother Awais Muzaffar Tappi. Born in Karachi, Memon was schooled in Karachi and Paris and graduated from London School of Economics (LSE) with a major in International Relations. She became the youngest female CEO by launching the country's first satellite tracking fleet management venture. She then joined Pakistan Television to advise on media management during Musharraf's tenure. She also worked in the ISPR before finally jumping into active politics by joining the then King's Party, the PML-Q.
- Heer Soho belongs to Thatta and is contesting general elections against Marvi Memon. She belongs to a family known for being active in leftist politics in the 1970s and 80s. Her father Ismail and uncle Ibrahim have been associated with progressive parties and had been jailed frequently during Ayub Khan and Ziaul Haq's regimes. Both have now quit politics. Heer first became a Sindh Assembly member on a women's reserved seat on an MQM ticket and it is the first time she is contesting on a general ticket.
- Khushbakht Shujaat was born on November 01, 1948 in Bhopal, India. Shujaat received a Masters degree in Journalism from Karachi University in 1975. She gained fame as an anchorperson on Pakistan Television three decades ago. She has been elected as an MNA from NA-250 in the general elections on a Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) ticket. She heads the party's cultural and literacy forum. Shujaat is married and the mother of two daughters and two sons. Besides her illustrious career as a television anchor and teacher, she is known for her debating skills. She enjoys reading, music and gardening in her leisure time.
- Shazia Marri is contesting on a National Assembly seat for the first time in general elections. Previously she grabbed a seat in the Sindh Assembly on a reserved seat won by the PPP in 2002 and 2008. She was nominated and selected as a member of the National Assembly after the death of Fauzia Wahab to represent the PPP. Previously, she was the provincial minister for information and culture. Her grandfather Ali Mohammad Marri was an MP in the Sindh Assembly before the Partition of British India. Her father Ata Mohammad Marri was an MNA and a deputy speaker of Sindh Assembly. Her mother Perveen Ata Marri was an MPA as well.

- Saniya Naz, 28, is the first woman contesting a provincial assembly seat from Lyari. She belongs to a working class family and is the daughter of a carpenter living on D.D. Chaudhry Road of Lyari, which was once, regarded the ‘Vietnam of Pakistan’ for its resistance against dictatorial regimes. It now notoriously holds the unwanted label of ‘Colombia of Karachi’. Sania does not hide the fact that her loyalties lie with Uzair Jan Baloch, who headed the defunct Peoples Amn Committee. She oversees the Women’s Education Programme in Lyari Resource Centre housed in the famous Football House.
- Veeru Kohli is the first woman from her community who is going to contest on a general provincial assembly seat PS-50 (Hyderabad Rural). She is excited to run for a place in the Sindh Assembly so that her dream can be realised: To end bonded slavery everywhere she can. Residing in a dingy mud hut in the impoverished Hoosri neighborhood of Hyderabad, Kohli lives with her family of agriculture workers. The 47-year-old woman previously lived her life as a bonded labor, which escaped in dramatic circumstances from captivity and then got her family and co-workers freed after staging a three-day sit-in inside a police station. She now works relentlessly to get others freed from private jails.
- Hajiani Lanjo is the daughter of a landless peasant from a village close to Mithi where Thar district houses its headquarters. The 35-year-old woman is the first female of her family to receive a college education. She has been a member of several non-governmental organizations before joining the Sindhiani Tehrik, the women’s wing of Sindhi nationalist leader Ayaz Latif Paliyo’s Awami Tehrik. She is contesting on a National Assembly seat against the mighty Arbabs’ candidate Naimatullah, nephew of Arbab Ghulam Rahim, and PPP’s influential Sher Mohammad Bilalani. Lanjo fearlessly complained to the election commission against Arbab Rahim, former Sindh chief minister, for humiliating women in a recent public statement. Her constituents believe there are small chances of her success, but they are happy to see a woman challenging the area’s influential feudal lords.
- Saba Bhatti is just 26-years-old and one of the youngest candidates in the country. Like Veeru and Lanjo, she has no political past or family to ensure her winning PS-3 of Pano Aqil in Ghotki district. Her mother, however, was a municipality councillor a few years back. She is an independent candidate contesting against PPP’s influential Ikramullah Dharejo and independent Pappu Chachar. Saba’s sole motto for elections is to fight against her district’s infamous reputation as a part of Sindh where, more than anywhere else in the province, feudal lords enjoy the final word with complete control over the life of their constituents. She has slim chances of winning but is considered a symbolic and significant challenge to the status quo.

Women’s history in the NA Except for three women who won National Assembly seats four times from urban constituencies since the country’s first elections 43 years ago, the other 51 seats held by women belonged to those who emerged from rural constituencies. Women have won in the general elections for the Lower House just 51 times. These include 15 women who won it 36 times in total. The rest had their stint just once. Benazir Bhutto and her mother Begum Nusrat Bhutto won the seats four times consecutively from 1988 to 1997, while Dr Fehmida Mirza and Tehmina Daultana won three times. Benazir went on to become the country’s youngest and first female prime minister, while Dr Mirza created history by becoming the National Assembly’s first female speaker. Those who won twice from their constituencies were: Begum Ashraf Abbasi, Begum Naseem Wali Khan, Begum Abida Hussain, Begum Majeeda Wyne, Ghulam Bibi Bharwana, Saima Akhtar Bharwana, Hina Rabbani Khar, Samina Khalid Ghurki, Faryal Talpur, Azra Fazal Pechuho and Shamshad Bachani. Ghurki was the first woman to be elected from the country’s urban Lahore constituency in 2002. She extended her winning

streak in 2008 when Raheela Baloch from Faisalabad and Khushbakht Shujaat from Karachi were also elected on general seats. Begum Ashraf Abbasi became the first female deputy speaker of the National Assembly in 1988. Begum Naseem Wali Khan remained the only woman from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to win a direct election. So was the case with Zubaida Jalal of Balochistan who won a seat from Makran in 2002. The ones who have been elected just once so far are: Naseem Majeed, Shahnaz Javed, Rifat Javed, Sumera Mmalik, Rubina Shaheen Wattoo, Khalida Mohsin Qureshi, Saira Tarar, Firdous Ashiq Awan, Sumera Naz, Natasha Daultana and Khadija Bibi. Despite the fact that a majority of the women contesting in the general elections were from rural constituencies, yet their background clearly suggested that none of them came from underprivileged families. All of them belonged either to rich and powerful families of politicians or were related to dominant feudal lords whose ambitions in politics had begun to unfold.

Dawn - May 06, 2013

### **Double Challenge: Being Hazara & the First Woman to Stand in Quetta for NA**

Pakistani candidate for National Assembly for Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q) party Ruquiya Hashmi, waves to supporters during an election campaign meeting in Quetta. Ruquiya Hashmi, a doctor and a former soldier, faces a double challenge — as well as being Hazara she is also the first woman to stand in Quetta for the national assembly. For the past few days she has had threatening phone calls and letters sent to her offices. She is running for Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q), an ally of the outgoing government, but she is determined to stand up to the extremists. In the city that has become the epicenter for record sectarian bloodshed in Pakistan, Shia candidates are braving death threats to make themselves heard in Saturday's election.

Dawn - May 09, 2013

### **Only Six Women Make It to National and 10 to Provincial Assemblies**

According to ECP data processed by a non-profit organisation, The Researchers, out of the 150 women candidates who had filed nomination papers for the NA elections from 111 constituencies across Pakistan, only six won the elections. Sixty women candidates contested the election on party tickets. Three female candidates each from Punjab and Sindh won the NA elections on a general seat, according to ECP results analyzed by The Researchers. No woman succeeded in winning a National Assembly seat from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa or Balochistan. The three successful candidates from Punjab — Sumera Malik, Ghulam Bibi Bharwana and Saira Afzal Tarar all belong to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) while the three winning candidates from Sindh, Faryal Talpur, Fehmida Mirza and Azra Afzal Pechuho were contesting on Pakistan People's Party (PPP) tickets. Among the six women MNAs elected, four completed hat-tricks. Malik, Pechuho and Mirza had all won from the same seat in the past two elections. The overall number of women elected to provincial assemblies remained unchanged in the 2013 elections, according to The Researchers. Only 10 of the 313 women who filed nomination papers from 213 constituencies will sit in the legislature for the next five-year term. Out of the 10, eight belong to Punjab while one candidate each is from Sindh and Balochistan. Not a single woman won a seat in the K-P Assembly. All eight successful candidates in the Punjab Assembly are from the PML-N as is the sole woman to win a general seat in the Balochistan Assembly. One PPP candidate, Saniya, won from PS-109 Karachi to be a part of the Sindh Assembly. Two Punjab Assembly candidates, Nazia Raheel from PP-88 Toba Tek Singh-V and Nagma Mushtaq from

PP-206 Multan-II, were re-elected from their constituencies. Out of the 313 women contesting for provincial assembly seats, 198 were independent candidates.

**The Express Tribune - May 17, 2013**

### **Women in Elections: Contrary to Claims, ECP Fails to Release Gender-Based Data**

With mounting reports of agreements to bar women from casting their votes casting a shadow on the May 11 polls, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has failed to release gender disaggregated data of votes polled. The delay is adding to the growing belief that women were kept away from a number of polling stations across the country. A senior official of the ECP told The Express Tribune that the turnout of women on many combined polling stations remained zero, which was why the data was not being shared by the commission. Similarly, another source revealed that in many instances confusion in recording gender disaggregated data resulted in the unavailability of these numbers. The source added that changes in the polling scheme and the resulting confusion amongst Returning Officers (ROs) were reasons for the inability of election officials to meet ECP directives. Secretary ECP had earlier assured the media that the commission would release all record of votes cast by men and women available in the 2013 general election. Talking about the discrepancy, an election observer said that the ECP's enforcement mechanism could be improved in the future. He added that data entry officers did not implement the ECP's directions due to which this data could not be collected. In addition, the change in the polling scheme was also a reason why errors occurred in the total votes polled data. Elaborating on the Secretary ECP's earlier claim, the spokesperson of the ECP Khurshid Alam, said that as soon as ROs send the commission the relevant data, it would be shared with the general public.

**The Express Tribune - May 30, 2013**

## **Voters & Overseas Pakistanis**

### **Transport Ban May Affect Women Turn Out In KP**

“If women have no easy access to the polling stations and transport facility like they had in the past elections, many women have told us they would not go out to vote,” said Maria Ghazi, a social mobilizer working with Blue Veins organization. “During our door-to-door campaign in one of the villages where the polling station is quite far away from the residential area, the women said that if they are not provided transport they would rather stay at home on May 11,” she said. Aged voters and handicapped persons would also face the same problems and would hesitate to go out on the day of election if there is no transport available, she said. In the past, candidates used to provide free transport and even food to voters of their constituency in the hope to win their support. However, the Section 18 of the ECP code of conduct states: “Political parties, contesting candidates and their supporters shall not use any vehicle to transport to or from the polling station any elector except himself and members of his immediate family.” “Stay at home; you don't need to go out and vote,” the men of the family would say to their women who would not have easy availability of transport to go to the polling stations,” said Sumera, a youth from a village of Swabi district. According to official data, the number of women voters is 5.25 million of the total 12.26 million voters registered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Women activists said that the ECP should allow provision of free of charge facility of transport to the women, handicapped and elderly people to boost the voters' turnout in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

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### **In Pakistani Town, Men Have Spoken: No Women Vote**

Mateela is one of 564 out of the 64,000 polling districts across Pakistan where not a single woman voted in the country's 2008 election. The men from this village of roughly 9,000 people got together with other nearby communities to decide that their women would not vote on May 11 either. Next week's election will bring a major first for democracy in Pakistan – the first time a civilian government has fulfilled its term and handed over power to another. But women still face an uphill battle to make their voices heard in the political process, as voters, candidates and in parliament, where they hold 22 per cent of the seats in the lower house. Women represent only about 43 per cent of the roughly 86 million registered voters, according to election commission data. In more conservative areas like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and Balochistan, the percentage drops even further. In places like Mateela, the fact that men decide women should not be allowed to vote is a decades-old tradition. Some men say women don't have the mental capacity. Other times they don't want wives and daughters to leave the house. Some simply don't see the point. At a recent gathering in the village, about 160 kilometers south of Islamabad, activists tried to encourage the opposite. The Association for Gender Awareness & Human Empowerment, an independent group working to increase voter participation, met with residents, trying to encourage them to let women vote. Mateela's men sat with male activists in a courtyard near the village mosque. Secluded behind a gate, the women sat on a concrete floor and listened to a female activist talk about the benefits of voting.

Yar Mohammed, one of the village elders, insisted it isn't a matter of discrimination. The problem, he said, is that the local polling station is mixed gender. The men worry that their wives and daughters will be harassed, so they want a separate women's station. In some places, but not all, polls are specified for men or women only. Mateela's women certainly want a political voice. They talk of their desire to see better roads, schools where their daughters can get an education and a reliable supply of gas for cooking and heating. They don't directly defy their fathers and husbands – but they do lobby them to change their minds. One resident, Mohammed Shamshed, said the women in his family “come up to us and say, ‘We want to vote.’” “But we tell them that it is a collective decision,” he said. Rubina Arshad said things are slowly starting to change as men and women become more educated. Another deterrent to women voting has been that many don't have the proper identification card, called a CNIC card. But activists say that has begun to change in recent years – in large part because it makes more financial sense for men. Poor women who want to receive money through the Benazir Income Support Program, a government plan to give money to poor people, need a valid ID card. And many programs that give out aid to flood victims or people displaced in fighting in the tribal areas also require an ID card. “These two have tremendously enhanced the registration of women,” said Muddassir Rizvi, CEO of the Islamabad-based Free and Fair Election Network. “If they see an advantage of a relationship with the state, then they agree to things.” In Pakistan, 60 of the 342 seats in the lower house of parliament, known as the National Assembly, are reserved for women. They are handed out to parties in proportion to how they do in the overall race, so women don't have to campaign publicly for them. But women can also run for the general seats, in competition with men on the campaign trail. In 2008, 64 women ran for general seats and 18 made it to the parliament. This year, the number of women contesting general seats has jumped to 161, out of a total of 4,671 candidates, according to data provided by UN Women, which focuses on women's empowerment and gender issues. Elections for provincial assemblies saw a bigger rise, with 355 women running among nearly 11,000 candidates, up from 116 in 2008. Traditionally, many female candidates have been from wealthy, land-owning families and were

seen more as a continuation of political dynasties than as women entering politics in their own right. Benazir Bhutto was famous for being Pakistan's first female prime minister, but she was also the daughter of a powerful political family. Experts say many of the women running this year are from the middle or even lower classes. A woman in the tribal area of Bajaur is running for parliament, marking the first time a woman has ever run for election from the conservative tribal areas that border Afghanistan. In the southern city of Hyderabad, a Hindu woman is also running for election. Still, the number of female candidates is extremely low, and most run as independents without the support of a political party. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the party that Bhutto headed before her assassination in 2007, is fielding women candidates in only seven per cent of the races. A PPP spokeswoman, Sharmila Faruqi admits that is not enough. "When they do get into the parliament, women tend to get down to business. According to Free and Fair Elections Network's (Fafen) data, female lawmakers last term asked more questions and submitted more bills and resolutions than men. The women also banded together to help pass five pieces of important legislation protecting women, including laws against sexual harassment in the workplace, according to Farkhanda Aurangzeb, from the Islamabad-based Aurat Foundation. In Mateela, the men say they are willing to let women vote if the election commission sets up a separate polling station. But the commission said that isn't possible because the voting lists had already been finalized. Abdul Hamid Abbasi, an activist from AGAHE, tried to convince the tribal elders that allowing women to vote will increase their power at the polls. "You can change your fate by electing a good candidate," he says. "It won't be possible without the active participation of women voters."

Dawn - May 06, 2013

### **KP Government Confirms Women Vote Blocked By Political Parties**

A Khyber Pakhtunkhwa minister has confirmed the Dawn.com report that women would not be allowed to vote in parts of the province under the tacit approval of PPP, ANP, JUI-F, PML-N and JI. "Yes I can confirm this agreement has taken place in Lower Dir, have reports of similar agreement from some other areas, but I am sure about Dir agreement and I had already communicated it to the Election Commission as well," Information Minister KP Musarrat Qadeem. To a query that the candidates are denying it, she said, "They would never accept but it has happened and they had also called me personally to deny it, but the truth is the thing did happen and action must be taken against it." The minister said the KP government is vigilant and would be focused on the job of ensuring free environment to women voters to vote. The Aurat Foundation has announced that it will challenge the result of the elections in the areas where the women voters are barred from polling. "We demand if such agreements have taken place the election commission must take action, and ensure the women voters are not stopped from casting their votes," adding "the EC has failed to stop this illegal act and we shall be challenging the move in the court of law.

After similar agreements in Lower Dir, political parties had followed suit in other parts of the province by agreeing to bar women from voting in the May 11 polls. Leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N), a frontrunner in the general election, and the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) entered into an informal agreement in Buner district, agreeing to bar women from casting their votes in the provincial assembly's PK-78 constituency. Chairman of the Insaf Committee Sorey Union Council in Buner district, Sardar Muhammad said that the PML-N's Abdul Hameed and JI's Afzal Hussain have mutually agreed to bar women from voting at the Topi Polling Station in Sorey Union Council of PK-78 Buner. The PML-N's Sar Zamin Khan, Jamaat-i-Islami's Habibur Rehman and Awami National Party's Qaiser Wali are going to have tough fight in the upcoming polls. Reacting to the ban on women voting in parts of KP, the Aurat Foundation's KP

head, Shabina Ayaz, said it was a serious violation of the code of conduct, and that the Election Commission must immediately take action against the candidates. Ayaz said written agreements had been signed by party candidates and their workers, especially in parts of the province, however, this time they were relying on verbal accords. She said the agreements would deprive a sizeable population of their votes.

Earlier Friday, the PPP, ANP and JI had entered into a similar agreement in Lower Dir's provincial assembly seat PK-94. The JI's Muzaffar Said, PPP's Alamzeb Khan and ANP's Ayub Khan are the major political parties contesting for the seat. Sources also confirmed that due to the Election Commission's restrictions, the candidates had made the deal through their 'local operators' instead of coming forward themselves. "The decision was taken at village Bandagai in the Talash area of Lower Dir district. But there is no written document in this regard and we also do not know that there are such arrangements in other areas as well," said one source. Political parties have previously barred women from voting in the same area and in adjoining union councils. However, due to the ECP's strict rules this time, candidates have asked their front men to carry out the agreements. In another similar incident, a jirga in Swat district's Amankot village, attended by elders and political candidate/workers, decided that the village women would not cast their votes in the upcoming elections. Tribal sources told Dawn.com that the decision was taken because of a fight that took place between two party workers 12-15 years back and women had not cast votes ever since. "The Awakening" is protesting at the Swat Press Club against the incident and said in a statement: "We strongly condemn the decision taken by various jirgas attended by candidates, workers of various political parties in PK-80 constituency of Swat, which decided not to allow women to cast their vote in Election 2013, which is their basic right."

The Express Tribune - May 10, 2013

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### **Democratic Right: Assisting Voters, But Unable To Vote Themselves**

Their job is to help others cast their votes, but some 644,970 polling staff members across the country were unable to cast their own votes, having been unable to avail the facility of a postal ballot. Teachers and government officers posted at polling stations were assigned the tasks of ushering voters, locating names in rosters and taking thumbprints. As the voting process culminated, officers were engaged in separating, sorting and counting ballots. "How can we vote while we are assisting people here?" questioned Humaira, a staff member at an Islamabad polling station. Though there is the facility of casting a postal ballot, many polling staff members were unaware of it and had therefore failed to submit the requisite application on April 25. The postal ballot allows prisoners, government officials, and members of the armed forces, holders of public offices and their wives and children stationed at a place other than the constituency to dispatch their vote by mail. But a professor at a Karachi polling station, who has worked at various polling stations in his career, said that officials are usually not able to avail the option of a postal ballot owing to lack of time. "By the time duties are assigned to the polling staff, it is already too late to file the application to the Election Commission of Pakistan for the postal ballot," he said.

The Express Tribune - May 12, 2013

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### **Over 130,000 Women in Bajaur Deprived Of Voting Right**

An ECP official told that the turnout of women voters in NA -43 and NA-44 remained less than three per cent, which was a matter of disappointment for the commission. At least 130,827

women have been deprived of their right to vote. “We expected the turnout of women voters could be over 10 per cent as the political and religious parties and their candidates had promised before the polling day that they would allow the women to cast their votes in the election,” the official said and added that the parties did not fulfill their commitment. He said that the ECP had received reliable information that tribal elders, religious and political leaders and some of the candidates were equally involved in stopping women from voting. According to the ECP data, only 2,800 women voters of the total 133,627 had cast their votes in both NA-43 and NA-44. He said that 2,785 women cast their votes in NA-44 and only 15 in NA-43. Sources said that most of women voters of NA-44 were polled in Barang and Salarzai tehsils. They claimed that PML-N candidate Shahabuddin Khan who emerged as winner played a role in encouraging the women to cast their vote. They said that all the candidates contesting the election for NA-44 except Badam Zari and Mr. Shahab had opposed polling of votes by women.

Dawn - May 17, 2013

### Violence/Law & Order Situation during Elections

#### **Election Violence: NPP Candidate Survives Suicide Attack near Shikarpur**

National Peoples Party candidate for NA-202 Dr Mohammad Ibrahim Jatoi narrowly escaped a suicide attack on Wednesday morning at the Shikarpur toll plaza. A suicide bomber rammed his motorcycle into Jatoi’s vehicle, while the NPP leader was on his way to Shikarpur from his village. Despite the intensity of the explosion, which caused extensive damage to Jatoi’s bulletproof Landcruiser, all the occupants were unhurt. Guards and local people then cordoned off the area, after which police reached the spot and arrested an injured suspect. Police also took away the body parts of the alleged bomber and remains of his motorcycle. This is the second suicide attack that Jatoi has survived. Two years ago, a suicide bomber tried to enter his residence while a Muharram Majlis was underway. At that time the police officials, who were deployed for security stopped the bomber from entering the venue and the bomber detonated his explosives, seriously injuring three police officers. Election violence continues. At least 18 people were injured in a fresh wave of attacks targeting election related activity across the country on Wednesday – with as many as 14 of them injured in incidents in Baluchistan.

Eight people were reported injured in a rocket attack on a JUI-F gathering in the city of Harnai in Baluchistan, with four of them reported to be in a critical condition. Unknown persons launched rockets at the JUI-F gathering from the mountains surrounding the city, with as many as ten rockets landing at various places close to the gathering. JUI-F Baluchistan chapter president and chairman of the Islamic Ideological Council Maulana Muhammad Sherani was among the leaders scheduled to address the gathering, but he was not present at the gathering at the time of the attack. Another six people, including three police officials, were injured when unknown assailants hurled a grenade at the election office of PML-N candidate Haji Lashkari Raisani in Quetta. Shots were reportedly fired as well. Eyewitnesses claimed two men, riding a motorcycle, carried out the attack at Raisani’s office. Four persons, including the relatives of Haji Latif Gul, the ANP candidate for PK-30, were injured by unknown gunmen in Mardan. According to an official of the Par Hoti police station, Gul had been on his way back from a corner meeting accompanied by his nephew, another relative and two gunmen when the two assailants opened fire at them. While Gul emerged from the attack unscathed, his relatives were critically injured.

Two other attacks were reported from Dera Murad Jamali and Nushki. Mir Allah Din Umrani, independent candidate for PB-29, was targeted by a remote controlled bomb near Kachi Bridge in Dera Murad Jamali. According to police, 10kg of explosives were used in the bomb, which had

been planted underneath Umrani's vehicle. While the vehicle was completely destroyed in the blast, no one was reported injured. No group claimed responsibility for the attack till the filing of this report. In Nushki, unknown persons hurled a grenade at the residence of PB-40 candidate Mir Bahadur Khan Mengal. No casualties were reported in this incident either. Police in Peshawar also foiled two attempts at targeting election candidates in the city. A five-kilogram bomb was defused near the election office of ANP candidate Arbab Nazir in the jurisdiction of Mathra police station around 11am on Monday. Around four hours later, another five-kilogramme device was defused near the house of PML-N candidate Syed Abbas Ali Shah. A candidate of the Qaumi Watan Party, contesting from NA-40, was allegedly kidnapped by unidentified armed men in Mirali tehsil of North Waziristan Agency Wednesday evening. An official of the political administration said that Malik Akbar Khan was on his way to his residence in Haider Khel from Khaisur along with four Khasadar officials, when the unidentified men intercepted his car and kidnapped him.

Daily Times - May 02, 2013

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### **Nine Days to Go: ECP Spells Out Election Security Plan**

With just nine days to go for the historic vote, the election authorities have spelled out the highly anticipated security plan, which will see army troops deployed as a 'Rapid Response Force' in every constituency to ensure the first democratic transition of power takes place peacefully. According to the Election Commission of Pakistan's security plan for all provinces, at least five officials from police and other law-enforcement agencies will be deputed at 'normal' polling stations, seven at 'sensitive' polling stations and 10 at 'highly sensitive' polling stations. Each army squad will comprise 20 to 30 soldiers as part of the contingency plans that will be deployed within minutes at any polling station in case of any untoward incident. "This plan of deputing five personnel on every single polling station will not be applicable to all stations. There is no one formula," a senior ECP official told The Express Tribune. He revealed that the army has agreed to provide 50,000 troops as part of the security arrangements for May 11. Law-enforcers will be deployed on May 10. Responding to a question, the official said the number of sensitive polling stations in the country numbered over 20,000. The process of printing of ballot papers, he said, would be completed on May 5 and their delivery would begin the next day. Elaborating on the security plan, the official said that maintaining law and order and providing security was the job of provincial governments and therefore, the decision in terms of the number of security officials would be taken by the provincial governments.

"The provincial governments and local administration can depute the security personnel as per their requirement. This number can be much higher according to the need of the area," the official added. Following the announcement, the Punjab government has said it will deploy 265,000 policemen at 40,628 polling stations in the province. It has also decided to install closed-circuit television cameras in and around the polling stations. Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso decided to place the National Crisis Management Cell, presently working under the interior ministry, at the disposal of the ECP. The move comes a day after the ECP blamed the executive responsible for providing security to the candidates and maintaining law and order. This decision was taken by the prime minister to allay concerns raised by the ECP regarding the law and order situation and is consistent with its policy to assist the commission in the conduct of general elections in a free and fair manner. The prime minister has reiterated the resolve to provide security to political leaders and candidates and maintenance of law and order in the country. The National Crisis Management Cell is repository of various assets of the country which include representatives of intelligence agencies and specialized services, says the

press release. Though the maintenance of law and order is a provincial subject, the federal government has been extending all possible assistance.

**Daily Times - May 02, 2013**

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### **Code of Conduct: 72,000 Violations Reported In Punjab**

Violations include use and display of weapons, oversized banners, loud music and use of loud speakers, blocking roads for political rallies or organizing rallies without permission from the ECP. The ECP has received 72,395 complaints about the violation of election code of conduct in the Punjab since it launched a monitoring system across the country in early April. Special monitoring teams have been monitoring each provincial and national assembly constituency to ensure that the code of conduct was implemented. Abid Hussain said some 300 complaints were received from Faisalabad district. Most of them have been charged with firing in the air, wall-chalking, pasting on walls and cars, and use of oversized banners. He said the Police Department as well as the district administration needed to take stricter action to implement the code of conduct. He said the returning officers had summoned several candidates, including former opposition leader in the Punjab Assembly Raja Riaz, former law minister Rana Sanaullah, former MNA Abid Sher Ali and former federal minister Rana Farooq Saeed Khan. In Sialkot, Khwaja Muhammad Asif, a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz candidate in NA-110, principal of the Government Degree Postgraduate College and deputy district officer have been issued show cause notices for violation of the election code of conduct. The notices were issued by Returning Officer Additional District Judge Nadeem Gulzar.

**The Express Tribune - May 02, 2013**

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### **Two Contestants Survive Blasts: No Let-Up in Attacks on Poll Offices, Rallies**

According to police, Dr Mohammad Ibrahim Jatoi, a National People's Party (NPP) candidate for NA-202 Shikarpur-I, was going to Zarkhail from his Napearabad village to attend an election meeting when a suicide bomber blew himself up near his motorcade on Shikarpur-Khanpur stretch of the Indus Highway, near Toll Plaza. 11 people were injured. Three passers-by were injured. According to witnesses, the 30-year old bomber had taken cover behind a tree and when the motorcade reached near him, he detonated the explosives hidden in his suicide jacket. Police said 15kgs of explosives were used in the blast. The attack drew a strong reaction from leaders of the NPP, PPP (Parliamentarians), PML-Functional and nationalist parties. They asked the caretaker government and the Election Commission (ECP) to provide security cover to candidates and voters. An election meeting of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) in Harnai town and an election office of a PML-N candidate in Quetta came under attack. Eight people were injured in the two incidents. "Ten rockets were fired at brief intervals but these could not hit the target and exploded after landing in the open," officials said, adding that the attack caused panic among the people and they started running for shelter. Four JUI-F workers were injured in the stampede in Quetta. In Nasirabad, an independent candidate narrowly escaped a car bomb attack. According to police, militants parked an explosives-laden car on a bridge in Bedari area of Dera Murad Jamali to target the election rally of Allah Dino Umrani, an independent candidate for BP 29 Nasirabad. "About 10 to 15kgs of explosives were used to target election rally," police said. Election offices of two candidates were attacked with grenades in Noshki and Hub

**Dawn - May 02, 2013**

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### **Candidate Kidnapped**

Akbar Khan, who is running for a National Assembly seat (NA 40 North Waziristan), was going home near Mirali after an election rally in Khaisur village. They said gunmen stopped the vehicle carrying Akbar Khan and four personnel of Khasadar Force and took them to an unknown location in a non-customs paid car. The kidnappers later set free the security guards. An official of the administration confirmed the kidnapping and said a jirga had been assigned the task of ensuring Akbar Khan's safe return.

**Dawn - May 02, 2013**

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### **Election Violence in Pakistan: 74 Killed and Counting**

Thursday's bomb blast outside an office of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) was the 42nd attack on electioneering since April 11 when the May 11 polls were exactly a month away and the deadly trend, including bombings and armed assaults, has claimed more than 70 lives, including two contesting candidates, and left over 350 injured as both the security administration and caretaker government find it the "most bloody and challenging elections" of Pakistan's history. However, with less than 10 days left, the authorities sounded confused and divided in their opinion over the origin of threat, the motive behind the brutal trend and what exactly lies ahead when the mainstream parties claim to have restricted their election campaigns and others express mistrust of the administration under the caretaker set-up, demanding deployment of army troops inside every polling station. "Obviously, the situation Pakistan faces today was never witnessed in its history before," said Arif Nizami, the federal information minister. However, he agreed that militancy and banned outfits were the major threats amid "random incident of violence with political motive" and blamed "internal and local elements" for the major acts of violence. The minister's thought was contrary to that of the interior ministry, which says election-related attacks are being patronized from across the western borders. 74 people have been killed and 369 injured, including women and children till the 3rd May. With the election campaign by political parties yet to gain momentum in three provinces - Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - election camps and offices were also attacked. This affected the pace of electioneering and raised security concerns among candidates and activists. The situation turned so grim and called for chalking out an action plan to maintain peace during electioneering. Due to situation, the authorities in Sindh now admit that they would need the army's assistance for polling security. They, however, find a "unanimous stand" by three major parties against recent acts of terror satisfactory which had saved Karachi from violence on political grounds -- a traditional phenomenon during every election.

**Dawn - May 03, 2013**

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### **70,000 Troops to Protect Poll Process**

Around 70,000 troops will be deployed across the country to perform security duties till the completion of the electoral process. Addressing a media briefing here on Thursday about the security plan prepared by the army, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Maj Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa said deployment in Balochistan had almost been completed while the process in Sindh would begin. He said movement of troops for deployment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had begun and the movement for Punjab would also begin on Friday. Personnel of the civil armed forces will be deployed at polling stations and the army will act as a quick

response force on a need basis. Maj Gen Bajwa said airborne quick response force would also be in place and around 50 army helicopters would be dedicated to election security. Asked if the army was ready to carry out any operation terrorist havens in Karachi before the polls, he said targeted operation by Rangers and police was already going on in the city. He said the troops had been called out in aid of civil power under Article 245 of the constitution. When asked if the troops on election duties would act on the command of the civil administration or seek instructions from their superiors in the military, he said the army's role was to reinforce the security plan and all steps would be taken in accordance with the constitution. He said the army had been deployed in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad for security of the presses, where printing of ballot papers had begun on April 19. The military's spokesman said the security cover of the army would remain available for safe transportation to the provinces and from the air bases to the district returning officers (DROs) and polling stations. Both the air and land routes will be used for the purpose. Answering a question, he said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), and not the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) agency would monitor the polls. In reply to another question, he said the Foreign Office should be asked whether the decision to seal the Afghan border on the Election Day had been discussed with the International Security Assistance Force.

Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso presided over a meeting on law and order during the elections. The ministers for interior and information, secretaries for interior and law and director general of the Intelligence Bureau attended the meeting. Briefing reporters, Information Minister Arif Nizami confirmed that the Afghan border would be sealed and surveillance in areas along it enhanced on the polling day. The Afghan refugees have been asked to keep their movement restricted to their camps. He said the prime minister had ordered that the CNG stations throughout the country should remain open on the polling day and there should be no load shedding from May 10 to 12.

Meanwhile, the ECP has refused to take control of the National Crisis Management Cell (NCCM). The commission held a meeting on Thursday and observed it was now well-settled that the maintenance of law and order was exclusively the responsibility of the provincial governments. It noted that all executive authorities in the federation and the provinces were under an obligation to provide assistance to the ECP, including provision of adequate security at the polling stations. The commission had set up more than 73,000 polling stations, with 20,000 earmarked as "sensitive or most sensitive", ECP spokesman Khurshid Alam said. He said the number of "sensitive" locations could be increased. Five security personnel would be stationed at each polling station and seven to 10 at sensitive and most sensitive ones, he said.

**Dawn - May 03, 2013**

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### **Two Polling Stations Blown Up**

Two schools designated as polling stations for the May 11 elections were blown up in the Chatter area of Nasirabad district on Thursday, official sources said. Police sources told Dawn that an improvised explosive device planted in a government middle school in Tahir Kot was detonated on Wednesday night and a primary school was blown up on Thursday in a nearby village in Chatter tehsil. Three rooms of the middle school were completely destroyed while five others suffered partial damage. The two-room primary school was completely destroyed, police said.

**Dawn - May 03, 2013**

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### **Polling Stations Security: Outdated Criteria**

Polling stations that are considered sensitive have been identified and the military has been deployed to provide them security, but no one seems to have raised concern about the outdated criteria used as the basis of such categorization. At a time when the main threat to the electoral exercise is from the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and militancy, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has identified polling stations as sensitive based on the past history of violence there, which is usually related to local groups and rivalries between contesting candidates. He conceded that the list of over 21,000 sensitive polling stations, recently released by the organization, was simply a repetition of the list prepared for the 2008 general elections. He added that at an ECP meeting last week to discuss security for the upcoming polls, the decision had been taken that five security personnel will be present at normal polling stations, seven at those considered sensitive and 10 at the ones considered most sensitive. According to this official, civil armed forces will be deployed in sufficient numbers at the polling stations while 50,000 troops of the Pakistan Army will also perform security duties for the polls as a rapid response force. Senator Afrasiab Khattak, the central leader of the Awami National Party (ANP) - one of the three parties against whom threats have been made by militants - observed that the old criterion for the categorization of sensitive polling stations was irrelevant now. "The major threat is from armed militants," he pointed out. "Rivalry between any two political groups is something secondary." Mr Khattak was of the view that the ECP must be fully aware of the areas which have fallen victim to pre-poll violence and must amend its old list of sensitive polling stations. "The ECP must take meaningful and serious steps instead of going for cosmetic measures," he remarked. Mr Khattak said that the ECP cannot absolve itself from its responsibility of maintaining law and order during election day, as after the announcement of the schedule of the polls, the central and provincial caretaker governments work under its monitoring. "The ECP must play a meaningful supervisory role and assert itself wherever the caretaker governments have left a vacuum," he emphasized. Senator Farhatullah Babar of the PPP, also a party that has been threatened, urged the ECP to revisit the criteria for declaring polling stations sensitive, in consultation with the political parties. He said that though the ECP had consulted the political parties on a number of proposed electoral reforms, this issue never came up for discussion. "Now, with general elections just around the corner, this has become all the more important, particularly when the threat from some extremist groups is in the open", he remarked. Wasay Jalil of the MQM, the third party in the militants' cross-hairs, also underscored the need to re-evaluate things on the basis of changed ground realities. He said that contesting candidates were informing the local ECP authorities in their respective areas about the need to declare certain polling stations sensitive. He was of the view that though it might be too late, now, with the polls less than a fortnight ahead, the effective deployment of security at sensitive polling stations would help prevent violence. Muddassir Rizvi, the chief executive officer of the Free and Fair Elections Network (Fafen), a coalition of over 40 non-governmental organizations working for electoral reform, told Dawn that there appears to be no formal mechanism or criteria for the identification of sensitive polling stations. He was of the view that those constituencies where election candidates are facing open threats should be declared sensitive in their entirety.

Dawn - May 03, 2013

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### **Pre-Poll Attacks: ANP Candidate and Young Son Shot Dead**

Sadiq Zaman Khattak, 45, who was contesting a National Assembly seat (NA-254), was shot outside Rehmania Masjid in Bilal Colony of Korangi Industrial Area. His four-year-old son Aimal

Sadiq Khattak was also killed in the attack. Six people, including Khattak's 15-year-old son Shahid Sadiq, were also injured. According to witnesses, at least three armed men riding motorcycles opened fire on Khattak, outside Rehmania Masjid. As a result, the ANP candidate was shot at least seven times, while his son, Aimal was shot four times, said an injured ANP worker, Faisal Khan. "The assailants continued firing for at least five minutes," According to doctors, the injured party workers are out of danger. Following the attack, extra contingents of law enforcers, including Rangers and police, reached the site but till then the assailants had escaped. According to police officials, 9mm pistols were used in the attack. They also found empty shells that were sent to the forensic division of Sindh police for further examination. Inspector General Police in Sindh Shahid Nadeem Baloch has taken notice of the incident and ordered Station House Officer (SHO) Mohammad Ali to arrest the culprits within three days to avoid legal action. SHO Ali told The Express Tribune that according to the initial investigation, the ANP candidate was the target. "The Taliban might have been behind the incident," he said. "However, nothing can be ascertained till the investigation is finalized." Khattak was associated with the ANP for the past three decades and was its Sindh council member and general secretary of District East. He was contesting elections from NA-254 for the first time. ANP Sindh President Senator Shahi Syed said "Those who kill a father and his child, after prayers, can't be grouped together with humans". President Zardari condemned the attack on Khattak and expressed sympathy with the candidate's family. MQM chief Altaf Hussain also condemned the attack on Khattak.

The Express Tribune - May 04, 2013

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### Media Talk: 'Karachi Violence A Local Phenomenon'

The PTI president said that the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) should resolve its differences with the groups and not seek to present it as a national issue. He said if voted into power, the PTI would focus on eliminating terrorism through talks with all the stakeholders in the on-going war. "We have condemned and we will continue to condemn drone attacks. This war was started by the United States ...Pakistan has nothing to gain from their war," he said. To a question, he said that the Pakistan People's Party was no longer the party founded by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He said it had ruled the country for five years and now lacked a leader to lead its campaign. "When you restrict yourself to media campaigns, you must accept that the people no longer support you." He said if PPP leaders cannot face the people, they should stop "distracting them through media campaigns". Talking about Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Hashmi said the Sharif brothers had considered Multan a burden. Now the southern Punjab saw them as a burden. He said in its five years government, "the PML-N had been snatching funds from the south and spending them on Lahore". "The Sharif brothers are now promising to resolve the energy crises if voted into power again. Were they sleeping for five years?" he asked. He said south Punjab had suffered the most under the previous governments. The education, health and agriculture sectors, he said, were all on the verge of devastation. He said it was high time the Sharif brothers realized they could not set up a Saudi-like dynasty here.

The Express Tribune - May 04, 2013

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### Twin Bomb Blasts in Karachi

A complete shutdown was observed in Karachi and other cities of Sindh on following a call to observe a 'day of mourning' by the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) over twin bomb blasts outside their election office in Azizabad, which killed three people and injured 40 others. A

bomb was planted near a park where the MQM had set up its election office for its unit in Karachi's Azizabad. About 20 minutes later, another explosion took place at almost the same place which was crowded by the party's activists, volunteers and security personnel. Police said apparently the MQM election office was the target. "Both bombs were detonated either by remote control or a timer device," Karachi Central SSP Amir Farooqi said. "The first attack appears to have been a trap to draw people to the place before the second explosion. Tight security and surveillance prevented any major damage."

Meanwhile, the Pakistani Taliban has claimed responsibility of the attack. From an undisclosed location, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan said the target was MQM and both bombings were carried out through planted devices. The MQM, have vowed to not bow down to the terrorists. Speaking to Dawn News, the party's leader, Haider Abbas Rizvi said that MQM has been targeted by forces which do not wish to see it coming into power. "We will continue with our election campaign and no one can deter us from our fundamental right of partaking in polls," he said. "Its sheer brutality," MQM chief Altaf Hussain said. "Our morale is high and we will not surrender to the evil forces of extremism and terror. It's so unfortunate that despite consistent attacks, no credible move has been witnessed against terrorists from the government, administration and security forces." The outlawed TTP has vowed to target the secular political parties of the country, naming Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Awami National Party (ANP) and MQM in the run up to the coming general elections.

Dawn - May 05, 2013

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### **Police Raid: 90,000 Forged Ballot Papers Seized In Dir**

Police seized more than 90,000 forged ballot papers on Sunday, allegedly printed for national and provincial constituencies of Upper Dir and Lower Dir districts. "Police were conducting a routine check on the Dir-Chitral road when they asked a car to pull over and recovered the bundles of forged ballot papers. The vehicle, along with the two men in it, was taken into custody and election commission officials were informed," DIG Malakand Division Abdullah Khan told reporters. They accused, Suliman and Aizazul Haq, residents of the Khungi area in Timergara, were arrested and handed over to the Chakdarra police. Officials said that after interrogation the police also arrested another suspect Habibullah, a resident of Odigram and owner of a printing press in Timergara. An official of the Chakdarra police told The Express Tribune that initial investigations revealed that the forged ballot papers were of yellow and green colour and were for NA-34, and PK-94, 95, 96, and 97 constituencies. The official added that a case under sections 420/468 and 471 of the Pakistan Penal Code was registered against the accused. Following the incident, the PPP candidate from NA-34, Malik Azmat Khan, claimed that security forces had thwarted Jamaat-e-Islami's plan of poll rigging. Malik demanded the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) take action against candidates who were allegedly involved in unfair practices. However, he added that the purpose of the papers was to educate the voters and were not meant for rigging. The investigation in the matter is still under way.

The Express Tribune - May 06, 2013

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### **At Least 14 Killed, 52 Injured In 3 Attacks in KP**

Fourteen people were killed and 52 injured in three terrorist attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as violence aimed at subverting electioneering continued. Eight people were killed and 33 injured in a suicide attack on a rally of a Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl candidate in Hangu near Kohat. Five people were killed and 16 suffered injuries when a roadside bomb hit a convoy of PPP activists

in Maidan Tehsil, Lower Dir District. A supporter of a candidate of a relatively little known party was killed and three others were injured when they came under attack in Baja town of Swabi area. Foreign news agencies put the casualties of the Hangu and Lower Dir attacks at 17 and said the wounded included a candidate.

Dawn - May 08, 2013

### **Bloody Ballot: 110 Killed In April**

April was indeed the cruelest month. At least 110 people lost their lives and 723 people were injured in as many as 77 election-related attacks across the country during the month, and the violence shows no signs of abating. So far, this week alone has seen attacks on the JUI-F, the PPP and the JI in which dozens have been killed, and two ANP workers died when a bomb exploded outside the house of an ANP leader in Bannu. A security report compiled by the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS) has revealed that during the month of April, 81 people were killed and 348 injured in 56 militant attacks targeting candidates, political parties and election-related activities. Another 29 people were killed and 375 injured in incidents of political violence by party workers. "Attacks on political parties, election candidates, offices, rallies and meetings were a dominant feature of insecurity and violence in Pakistan during April," the PIPS report maintained, adding, "These attacks were mainly perpetrated by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Karachi, and by Baloch insurgents in Baluchistan." Most election related attacks have taken place in K-P and Baluchistan, which reported 19 terrorist attacks each. Another 11 were reported from Sindh, out of which nine occurred in Karachi while two took place in Hyderabad. Five attacks were reported from Fata and two from Punjab. K-P was the worst hit by terrorism in terms of both total number of attacks and total casualties, with 70 dead and 248 injured in as many as 67 attacks, not all of which were election-related. Sindh follows with 57 people killed and 178 injured in 45 reported attacks in all, most of which took place in Karachi. Again, not all of these attacks were election-related. "While the TTP mainly targeted so-called progressive and liberal political parties – namely the MQM, ANP and PPP– Baloch insurgents were indiscriminate in their attacks against political leaders and workers," the report stated. Baloch insurgents, mainly the Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA), the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) and the Baloch Republican Army (BRA), carried out attacks across 12 districts in the province. The attacks targeted both nationalist parties, such as the Balochistan National Party-Mengal and the National Party, and other parties including the Fazlur Rehman and Ideological factions of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Jamaat-e-Islami, the ANP and the PPP. Baluchistan, in fact, saw an overall spike in violence as compared to the month of March, with 56 reported attacks in which 26 people were killed and another 121 injured. The security situation in Fata remained more or less the same as the previous month with 29 people killed and 54 injured in 27 reported attacks. However, PIPS noted that while attacks by the TTP and Baloch insurgents' surged, sectarian violence declined significantly in April. A total of 198 terrorist attacks were reported across Pakistan in April. The attacks claimed the lives of 183 people and injured 603 others.

Following political leaders and workers, the attacks mostly targeted security forces and civilians, the PIPS report stated. In an acknowledgment of the potentially volatile situation prevailing in Pakistan's largest city, officials associated with the National Crisis Management Cell (NCMC) told The Express Tribune that Karachi has been categorized as the most sensitive area in the country in the security plan for the May 11 elections. Though the interior ministry has not officially released its security plan, the officials said 34% of the polling stations in the city are considered sensitive. In keeping with this, the officials revealed that over 59,000

security personnel will be deployed in Karachi on Election Day. With the security plan now finalized, the officials also said that a total 750,000 security personnel will be deployed in order to secure over 72, 000 polling stations across the country. Two ANP activists were killed when a bomb planted outside the house of ANP leader Abdul Manan went off in the town of Khar in the Bajaur Agency on Wednesday. Asad Sarwar, the Assistant Political Agent of Khar, said that security forces along with the Bajaur Levies rushed to the site after the explosion and launched a search operation, but were unable to arrest anyone. Both the bodies were shifted to the headquarters hospital where they were identified as Imran and Kalimullah. Manan condemned the attack said that the party leadership and workers would not be discouraged by militant attacks. Three people who were earlier badly wounded in Tuesday's attack on the vehicle of Mufti Syed Janan, the JUI-F candidate for PK-43, succumbed to their injuries. These deaths took the total death toll to 15 people, while the 41 injured remain under treatment.

**The Express Tribune - May 09, 2013**

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### **Terror Threats: Taliban Plotting Major Attacks**

In their bid to sabotage the historic May 11 polls, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other outlawed militant groups are likely to target the leaders of political parties, foreign election observers, polling staff and journalists. The militant groups are carrying out their plans with the backing of foreign countries. Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso and the federal cabinet have been informed of these threats by intelligence agencies. According to documents available, Premier Khoso and the cabinet were warned about the threats during a cabinet meeting held on May 4 at the Prime Minister's Secretariat. Interior ministry officials had apprised the meeting that 52 visas had been issued to long-term election observers from the European Union (EU), 46 visas for short-term EU observers and 70 visas to members of the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Documents show that the head of the Inter Services Intelligence is in favour of proper vigilance as well as cohesive responsibility about the threats. He also spoke of credible intelligence that was available about concrete efforts to target election candidates before and during the elections. "It would be appropriate if the prime minister called an all parties conference and took them into confidence about the measures being taken for security to alleviate their fears," he added. The head of the Intelligence Bureau warned there was a threat to the political and religious leadership in Islamabad. He said that polling stations were required to be protected in all parts of the country. "The polling material also requires to be taken care of. In Sindh we have to work hard not only in Karachi and in interior Sindh but also tribal enmities in Kashmore, Khund Kot, Shahdad Kot, Umerkot and Sanghar have to be kept in view," the DG IB stated. Similarly, he said, the specter of tribal feuds in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa could not be ignored. In certain districts of southern Punjab, sectarianism was rife, the documents said. The DG IB suggested that a flag march of the armed forces as per a previous cabinet decision should be carried out to discourage terrorists from launching attacks. The interior secretary said there were threats of coordinated attacks by the TTP and its allied groups against political party leaders, candidates and the Election Commission of Pakistan staff. He said they could also attack foreign observers and journalists. The flashpoint areas were identified in southern Punjab, Karachi and Hyderabad in Sindh, Peshawar, Charsadda and Mardan in K-P, Quetta, and Khuzdar, Mastung in Balochistan and Bhara Kau and Margalla Hills in the Islamabad Capital Territory.

**The Express Tribune - May 11, 2013**

## Strike, Threats Mar Balochistan Polling

Our worst fears did not come true. After a bloody run-up to the elections, in which dozens were killed in various parts of the country, Election Day went off fairly peacefully. There was sporadic violence across the board, but the much feared wave of terror did not materialize. Indeed, in most parts of the country, people turned out in large numbers, despite the threats from terrorists who had vowed to disrupt the elections. Fear, boycotts, strikes and sporadic violence characterized the voting process in Balochistan, including Quetta, where polling was held for 14 National Assembly and 51 provincial assembly seats. Over 70,000 security personnel were deployed across the province, particularly in the Baloch-dominated districts, to ensure peaceful elections. Outlawed separatist groups such as the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) and Baloch Republican Party (BRA) – had threatened people against exercising their constitutional right. Due to strike calls, most Baloch-dominated districts were closed and traffic on national highways was also very thick. This resulted in a low turnout in Kech, Panjgur, Awaran and other Baloch-dominated districts. Sources said that most of the polling staff did not show up for duty in these regions due to threats from Baloch separatist groups. That's why polling stations in Panjgur presented a deserted look. The situation in Kech and Awaran was no different.

On the contrary in Pashtun-dominated district, the situation was quite encouraging. A large number of people turned up at polling stations in the districts of Pishin, Qila Abdullah, Ziarat, Qila Saifullah, Jaffarabad, Naseerabad, Zhob, Harnai, Kalat, Khuzdar and Sibi. Interestingly, the turnout of female voters remained high as long queues could be seen at different polling stations in Quetta. "Voting did not start until the media visited the polling station," a woman voter said while thanking the media. People in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa defied militant threats and turned up in large numbers to use their right to vote in the country's historic elections. By and large, voting was peaceful. However, sporadic incidents of violence – including bomb and rocket attacks – were reported in some parts of the province. At least one person was killed and 35 people were wounded in violence. At some polling stations, balloting was suspended following violent clashes between supporters of rival parties. In this conservative society, women usually don't show up for voting, while in some areas they are disenfranchised by their men. On Saturday however, women came out to vote, even in polling stations that were officially declared 'highly sensitive'.

In some neighborhoods', women were not allowed to use their democratic right. Complaints of rigging were also made by some candidates against their opponents. Voters also faced problems due to mismanagement and a shortage, or sometimes a complete lack of polling staff at a number of stations. In a polling station for females located in Government College Peshawar, two presiding officers and one assistant presiding officer did not show up for duty. Mera Gul, a presiding officer at the college, said she pointed that out to the election authorities – but no action was taken. Mosarrat Qadeem said, "Despite threats of extremist attacks, the day passed peacefully." She added that Rs160million worth of security arrangements proved effective.

Though polling in Punjab was peaceful throughout for the most part, violence and allegations of rigging were also reported in some districts. Two PML-N activists were killed in the clash. Supporters of PML-N and independent candidate Sanaullah Masti Khel clashed in Bhakkar district where two PML-N activists were killed. A PTI worker was killed in Gujranwala in a clash with PML-N supporters. In Lahore, three armed clashes were reported between the workers of PML-N and PTI. Police arrested an armed guard of PTI candidate Nawaz Nat for firing into the air in Badami Bagh. Allegations of rigging were rife in the constituency from where PML-N candidate Khwaja Saad Rafiq was contesting. However, neither police nor election authorities took any notice of the complaints lodged by voters. Voting was briefly suspended in NA-75

(Faisalabad) after PML-N supporters allegedly forced some people to vote for their candidate. Police said they would wait for a formal complaint before making any arrests. However, a PML-N candidate was arrested for attempting to rig elections in Rajanpur.

**The Express Tribune - May 12, 2013**

### **EU Observer Stresses Peaceful Power Transfer**

Chief observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Pakistan and Member of the European Parliament Michael Gahler said that peaceful and smooth transfer of power to the newly-elected government will be Pakistan's biggest achievement.

**Daily Times - May 12, 2013**

### **Enthusiastic Voting In KP despite Bombs**

Bomb attacks wounded 12 people outside polling stations in northwest Pakistan, police said, but many voters were not deterred from casting their ballots in Saturday's landmark polls. The vote marks the first time that an elected civilian administration has completed a full term and handed power to another through the ballot box in a country where there have been three military coups and four military rulers. In Peshawar, police said a bomb planted on a motorcycle and targeting women voters wounded eight people. In the district of Mardan, another four people were injured in a bomb blast close to a polling station. Police described it as a "low intensity timed-device". But despite the attacks and threats of suicide bombings from the Taliban, an AFP reporter saw queues of enthusiastic people, charged up and determined to vote. In Badhabar, a militant stronghold on the edge of Peshawar that has been repeatedly bombed, more than 300 people lined up at a polling station to wait to cast their votes, an AFP reporter said. In Peshawar, hundreds of people queued up, some of them in wheelchairs, to cast their votes. "We have already spent a lot of time being scared of terror threats. Today, we have to take a decision and bury this state of fear once and for all," said shopkeeper Suhail Ahmad in Peshawar. "We have to vote for peace and the future of Pakistan. People must get out of their houses and cast their votes,"

**Daily Times - May 12, 2013**

## **Polling Assessment, Polling Stations & Polling Staff**

### **Duties at Polling Stations: Teachers Posted To Areas Where Officials Fear To Tread**

With more than half of the polling stations declared 'highly sensitive' in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, teachers assigned election duties find themselves increasingly vulnerable. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) seems to have made things more difficult by not consulting circle heads of the education department over the duties assigned to teachers on Election Day. Many teachers have serious reservations over the ECP's unilateral decision because some, including women, have been assigned duties at polling stations outside their district of residence. Many teachers have refused to accept the assignments as a result, said All-Primary Teachers Association (APTA) President Malik Khalid Khan. He said he was surprised at the move and could not understand why the ECP did not take the teachers into confidence for such a crucial election. "It is our national obligation to perform duties at polling stations, as we have been doing in the past," he said, adding that the ECP had taken the data of the Educational

Management Information System from the elementary and secondary education department. In previous elections, education officers were always informed by the Election Commission of the arrangements and duties, but this time, the ECP has bypassed its own rules and regulation, Khalid said. Peshawar is distributed into eight circles and teachers would always be assigned duties within their district. "25% of male teachers have refused to render duties during the elections," Khalid said. Posting women teachers in restive areas is a blunder on the ECP's part, he said, adding that some have been tasked to work in polling stations in Mattani, Badhaber and Sarband.

"How will it be possible for women to work in these areas where even law enforcement agencies are under attack every other day?" The ECP needs to take the socio-cultural norms of this region into consideration, Khalid said, adding that many women may not get permission to work far away from home in volatile areas of the province. ECP's Public Relations Officer Sohail Khan said the district returning officer (DRO) is responsible for assigning duties to teachers in the province, adding that the ECP does not deal with these issues. "We received complaints regarding duties and the DRO responsible is looking into their grievances," he said. Two female teachers at Government Girls Primary School Hayatabad, requesting anonymity, said they were assigned polling stations in Bara Shiekhan, Khyber Agency and Kagawala. "This is the first time we have been deputed in remote areas for the election," said one of them. Another teacher said her Election Day duty timings are from 8am to 5pm. "I don't know how it will be possible to work till 5pm because the curfew in Bara is imposed after 4pm," she said. Vote counting starts from 6pm until 10pm. "It will be very difficult for a female polling officer to handover ballots to the DRO at around 11pm in a militancy-hit area," she added. Five trained teachers are usually deputed at a polling station. Their assigned roles include a polling officer, an assistant polling officer and three others to assist in looking up names on the voter list before allowing a person to cast the ballot, Aziz explained.

**The Express Tribune - May 01, 2013**

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### **Over 750,000 UNDP Trained Government Staff Joined Election Duties**

More than 750,000 government employees trained by the UNDP have joined election duties at the 69,876 polling stations across Pakistan. Following the ECP's announcement on appointing the electoral staff at the polling stations, over 700,000 employees of the Federal and Provincial Governments comprising the ECP staff members and school teachers would be reporting to the returning officers (ROs) concerned to make prior arrangements for the polling day, hours after the elections campaigns of the general polls contestants came to an end. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Director in Pakistan Marc-Andre Franche had told that the UNDP had trained 33,000 policemen from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab Police, over 450 ROs and more than 70,00,00 polling staff (reportedly 720,000), including the ECP officials and school teachers, for performing duties in the general elections. According to the UN diplomat, the training was imparted under three training programmes. The ROs, he said, were trained for the elections' result management, the policemen were trained under the basic electoral security programme while the polling staff was trained by the UNDP and IFES (International Foundation for Electoral Systems), he had informed. The UN agency has trained 19,000 personnel deputed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA to respond to the security threats in wake of declining security situation there while 14,000 officials of the Punjab Police have also been trained. Reportedly, these policemen have already been deployed at the constituencies concerned to perform the election duties. They would be guarding the polling stations.

**The Nation - May 08, 2013**

## **LHWs to Protect Women Polling Stations in KP**

Provincial information minister Musarrat Qadeem told a news conference that lady health workers would be undergo necessary training to perform policing duty at women polling stations on the polling day. “The province does not have a sufficient number of women police to perform the election day duty at women polling stations,” she said, explaining reasons behind the provincial cabinet’s decision taken earlier in the day. With Chief Minister Tariq Pervez Khan in the chair, the cabinet reviewed security arrangements and approved security plan for May 11 in the province. She said educational institutions across the province, including public and private schools, would remain closed from May 9 to May 12 and that the government departments would be closed on May 10 and May 11. Ms Qadeem said there were a total of 9,000 polling stations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and of them, 1,878 had been declared highly sensitive, 3,000 sensitive and the rest normal with no immediate threat to them. She said 10 policemen would be deployed at every highly sensitive polling station, six at every sensitive polling station and four at every normal polling station.

The minister said the government had approved the installation of closed-circuit television cameras in highly sensitive polling stations across the province to maintain peace. Ms Qadeem said against a total requirement of 85,000 policemen, the province had 79,000 policemen for the polling day duty. She said the shortage would be met by Pakistan army that had provided 6,000 personnel to the province for the Election Day duty. “Quick Response Teams will be available at nearby polling stations from where these teams could respond in 10 to 15 minutes,” she said, adding that a quick response team would be responsible for a cluster of 10 to 15 polling stations. Ms Qadeem said a central control room would be established at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s home and tribal affairs department for the polling day to closely coordinate with all district administrations across the province. She said the central control room would be competent to assign helicopter to district(s) where needed to respond to challenging situations. The minister said the provincial government had also instructed the Peshawar Electric Supply Company to ensure non-stop electricity supply across the province for, at least, three days from May 9 to May 11.

Ms Qadeem said the provincial government was providing security to 269 candidates facing serious threats to life. “The government has deployed 1,600 security guards to provide security to the candidates with high risks. Some 900 of security guards have been provided from the provincial police and remaining 600 guards have been arranged from private security agencies,” she said. The minister said the provincial home and tribal affairs department had foiled 45 terrorist attacks in April this year as a result of brisk intelligence. She said during the last 15 days, a total of 947 raids had been conducted in the province during which 7,000 outlaws had been arrested who would remain under confinement till the elections day. When asked about deteriorating law and order situation in the province, Ms Qadeem said the caretaker provincial government had the mandate to hold free and fair elections. The law and order issue is 10 years old, so it cannot be addressed in 30 days (the caretaker government’s term in office).

**Dawn - May 08, 2013**

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## **Mobiles Not Allowed Inside Polling Booths**

In fresh directives, the ECP said that to ensure smooth conduct of polls and minimize any chance of manipulation, voters should be asked if they were carrying mobile phones. “In case the answer is affirmative, the presiding officer shall direct the voter to place the mobile on his/her table and thereafter, ballot paper will be issued to the voter who, after marking the same in the

screened off compartment, will insert his folded ballot papers in the ballot boxes. Only then the mobile of that voter shall be returned.

Daily Times - May 09, 2013

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### **Scuffles at Female Polling Stations While Men Behave**

Firing on female polling stations, fights and scuffles were witnessed in different parts of the agency on Saturday as rival candidates accused each other of poll rigging. Supporters of two candidates resorted to aerial firing at Sadu Khel female polling station but the situation was controlled as a result of timely intervention by security forces. Discrepancies in voter lists also irked many voters. Staff at the female polling stations was largely inexperienced and incompetent, leading to huge delays in the polling process. At one point, polling had to be stopped for several hours here in Landi Kotal. On the other hand, polling at the male polling stations was conducted in an orderly fashion with no reports of violence from here or Jamrud. "This is the first time in the history of the tribal regions that such a large number of women have also come out to vote. This is a positive development for FATA. Situation should improve with time," observed a local voter, Imran Shinwari.

Daily Times - May 12, 2013

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### **Teachers Protest Against RO's 'Misbehavior'**

Talking to reporters outside the local press club, district and taluka office-bearers of the Primary Teachers Association Tharparkar and Mithi, High school Teachers Association and lecturers of the Government Boys Degree College, Mithi, alleged that after performing their duties as presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and polling officers, the teachers went to the office of Returning Officer Suhail Jabar Malak where they were made to stand in a queue and wait for more than four hours. They said that when the teachers protested, the returning officer handcuffed Khalid Pali, an assistant lecturer at the Government Boys Degree College, and brought him before other teachers in this condition. They said that the returning officer removed the handcuffs when teachers protested against his behavior. Protesting teachers demanded that the returning officer be transferred from Tharparkar and appealed to the Chief Justice and the Chief Election Commissioner inquiring into the matter.

Daily Times - May 16, 2013

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### **Army to Be In, And Outside, Polling Stations in NA-250**

Army soldiers will be deployed inside and outside the 43 polling stations of Karachi's NA-250 constituency where re-polling will be held on Sunday. Major General Asim Saleem Bajwa, Director General of the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), said that under a comprehensive security plan thrashed out for the re-polling, troops would be deployed in and outside the polling stations. He had ruled out deployment of troops at polling stations across the country during the May 11 elections because of the large number of polling stations. "But this time the task is manageable as the number of polling stations is only 43." He said troops had been mobilized and a security cover had been provided for transportation of ballot papers.

On Friday the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had dismissed the Muttahida Qaumi Movement's plea for re-polling in entire constituency. Subsequently, the MQM announced boycott of the re-polling. A senior official of the ECP said it was democratic right of the MQM to

boycott the re-polling but it would not affect the schedule for the re-polling. He said the re-polling had been ordered because polling at the stations could not take place as the presiding officers could not reach there after receiving threats. Their substitutes also refused to perform election duty because of threats. He said this time arrangements had been made to provide security to the polling staff and voters. The commission in its Friday's order had called for army deployment in and outside the 43 polling stations on Sunday with army support to the administration, Rangers and police for maintaining law and order in Karachi under Article 245 of the Constitution. Since the order came a day after Chief Election Commissioner retired Justice Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim met Army Chief Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, it is believed that they had agreed on the army deployment. The total number of registered voters in NA-250 is over 300,000 and 70,000 of them are supposed to cast their votes at the polling stations. Analysts believe that the boycott by the MQM would mean a definite success for Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) candidate Dr Arif Alvi

The ECP decided on Saturday to hold re-polling at 47 polling stations in NA-230 (Tharparkar) and its corresponding Sindh Assembly Constituencies, PS-62 and 63, on June 1. According to unofficial results announced by the ECP, the NA seat had been won by Shah Mehmood Qureshi of the PTI. The commission decided to hold re-polling on the basis of a report about irregularities received from the district returning officer and endorsed by the Sindh government. The commission also ordered re-polling at four polling stations in the adjacent NA-229 on June 1. The seat had been won by Arbab Fawad Razzak, according to unofficial results. It asked the chief secretary of Sindh to make adequate security arrangements to avoid repetition of irregularities during the re-polling. The ECP also ordered re-counting of votes at seven polling in PP-198 (Multan), according to an official.

Dawn - May 19, 2013

### Election Updates, Analysis, Reports & News

#### Tribe before Party in Pakistan Rural Campaign

Pakistan's two main parties may be tearing strips off each other in election campaign adverts, but in one district of the country's northwest, they are united in brotherly harmony. In Lakki Marwat district, next to the Taliban-infested badlands bordering Afghanistan, the Saifullahs are tribal leaders and wealthy industrialists who have been in politics for four generations. The vast majority of the 330,000 registered voters are members of the Marwat tribe and locals know the Saifullah brothers as their clan elders, not for their party affiliations. Salim Saifullah Khan is running for the National Assembly for the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), while his brother Anwar is contesting two provincial seats for the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). They share a campaign base, the family house in Ghazni Khel village, they appear on campaign posters together and the slogan "Saifullah brothers" is daubed on countless walls in the district. In this deeply traditional land of dry earth and ragged, rocky hillsides, what counts in politics is not party or policies but service and tribal kinship, and the Saifullahs are tied to the people by ancient bonds of blood and loyalty.

For Abdul Hamid Khan, an elderly voter in the village of Shahbaz Khel, PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari of the PPP are unimportant. They don't know Nawaz, they don't know Zardari, they only know our Khans. The family has a hugely successful group of companies and has ploughed some of its wealth back in to improving the district. A cement plant the family helped set up is the biggest single employer, providing jobs to 2,000 people. "We are Marwat, they are our princes and we are their nation," said Mehmood Khan Haji,

another voter. But Salim, a former cabinet minister, has a tough fight on his hands as he seeks to take over his eldest brother Humayun's seat as he is retiring. He is running against JUI-F chief Fazlur Rehman, whose conservative message plays well in the deeply pious area, where women are rarely seen in public. We've worked here for the last 80 years, my grandfather first got elected in 1936 and we have been working ever since. I hope my constituents, who we have served for the last so many years, look at our services and look at his (Fazl's) services, which are negligible, and hopefully will vote for me" Said Salim. In Shahbaz Khel, a crucial battleground with a vote bank of around 4,500 where Salim admits he is neck and neck with Fazl, the 65-year-old is received by around 100 villagers – all men.

An elder appointed as spokesman welcomes Salim and pledges the village's loyalty, but says the Saifullahs should do more for the people; give them more time and listen more to their grievances. The family says the relationship with the people has changed since earlier generations. Voters' loyalty is no longer unquestioning and they expect more from the family. After reminding the people of Shahbaz Khel of his family's service and warning them of the dangers of electing an outsider like Fazl, Salim spends several hours patiently hearing the often-fervent pleas of dozens of villagers. Employment is a big concern in an area. Lots of people come to him asking for jobs. Saifullah Khan Mahsud, executive director of the FATA Research Centre think tank, said there was no question the family had helped the area, but he warned their western education and liberal lifestyle could work against them. He said the fight between Salim and Fazlur Rehman was too close to call but the brothers would probably win at least one of the seats they are contesting. Salim's goal before he retires is to see through a new dam on the Kurram River, which would generate 85MW electricity.

Daily Times - May 02, 2013

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### Constituency Profile: Ideology over Individuals

The electoral battle in Baluchistan, at least as far as the Pashtoon majority districts are concerned, looks as if it will be waged between the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl) and the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party. While the right-wing parties have deeply embedded roots in this area, the more moderate forces PkMAP, can also boast of growing support. Either way, in this deeply tribal region, it becomes clear that it's the ideology of parties, not the personal sway of individual candidates that will determine the outcome. The National Assembly constituency for the Ziarat and Pishin districts is inhabited mostly by the Kakar and Tareen Pushtun tribes. Compared to the 2008 elections, there has been a decrease of almost 15,070 votes. However, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and the Pashtunkwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) still enjoy strong and separate vote banks: those of the religious viewpoint, and those of the nationalist viewpoint. This time around, 16 candidates are in the run for the seat that has previously been won by the JUI-F. The party's candidate, Molvi Agha Mohammad, was victorious in 2008; an election boycotted by the PkMAP, and remains a strong candidate even today. Recently, he was pronounced ineligible for having a fake degree, but then given relief by the court.

Although there are other candidates in the ring, notably Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Muhammad Yousuf Khan Kakar and Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf's (PTI) Nawab Khan, analysts believe that Molvi Agha will ultimately lock horns with the PkMAP's Muhammad Essa Khan Roshan, who also enjoys a considerable support base. The National Assembly seat in sprawling Qila Abdullah is perhaps the most crucial in Balochistan. Adjacent to the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, it is also a Pushtun territory dominated by the Achakzai and Kakar tribes. In the past decades, the JUI-F and PkMAP have both been successful in this region. Once again, they have fielded strong candidates – PkMAP Chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai is contesting the seat himself,

and is opposed by JUI-F's Qari Muhammad Shair Ali, who stood after Haji Roz-ud-din was declared ineligible in the fake degree case. However, this time, with 29 candidates vying for the seat, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Nazaryati (JUI-N) and the Awami National Party (ANP) also have significant support. In 2008, PkMAP boycotted the elections, but they are back with a vengeance by fielding the popular Mahmood Khan Achakzai. According to analysts, despite the presence of various strong contenders, the favourites at this point seem to be Achakzai, Ali and JUI-N's Maulana Salahuddin Ayyubi. With the religious vote bank divided between JUI-F and JUI-N, PkMAP may very well take home the crown.

Daily Times - May 02, 2013

### **Parha Likha Pakistan: A Means but No End**

All political parties have pledged to move mountains to address the education emergency, but offer few plans. When it comes to education, the manifestos of most political parties have two things in common: that they all pledge to move mountains to address Pakistan's education emergency, but offer few plans as to how they intend to do this. Increasing the GDP, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has yet again pledged to push the budgetary allocation for education to 4.5 percent of the GDP if it gets another term. It is important to note that during the last five years of the PPP-led coalition government, the GDP allocation continued to decline from 2.9 percent in 2008 to 2.2 percent in 2012. The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), the off and on ally of the PPP, claims that budgetary allocation for education would be raised from 2.2 percent to 5 percent of the GDP and promised an outlay of 20 percent for education in the provincial budget. Similarly, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also committed to increase education spending from 2.2 percent to 5 percent of the GDP. However, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has vowed to increase the budget from 2 to 4 percent of GDP by 2018, while Pakistan Muslim League Functional (PML-F) has inserted just one line in its manifesto indicating an education budget increase from 2 to 6 percent.

The PPP has pledged to raise the adult literacy rate from the current 54 percent to 85 percent. Meanwhile, MQM announced that steps would be taken to provide free and compulsory education to children from 5 to 16 years in order to boost the literacy rate. PTI says their target would be to help illiterate adults in the 15-30 age groups achieve functional literacy. JI claims the literacy rate will reach 100 percent by the end of their tenure, as they will provide free of cost education till grade 10, a more ambitious goal than the PML-N's target of 80 percent. The PPP plans to carry out comprehensive curriculum and academic reform and, for the first time, review and reform language policy to stress both mother tongue instruction as well as the appropriate introduction of national and international languages. JI vows to promote all languages, along with Urdu, as a medium of instructions in academics. PTI mentioned that English and Urdu will be taught as compulsory subjects from grade 1 to 12. However, the manifestos of MQM, PML-N and PML-F are silent on curriculum-related points. An important point only mentioned by PPP and ANP is to remove hate and violence-related material and unwarranted glorification of wars from curriculums. Disparity in the system of education has been another main reason for Pakistan's low literacy rate and high drop-out rate.

The PPP has promised education for all, to 'eliminate class divides, gender disparities, poverty and unemployment.' They have not, however, mentioned Article 25-A (right to education), which places the responsibility of providing free, compulsory education up to a certain level, upon the state. MQM and JI may have discussed the elimination of dual standards of education system in their manifestos, but have given no details as to how this will be implemented. PTI promised to focus on girls' education, and resolved to increase number of schools for girls. The

PML-N is determined to achieve the target of 100 percent enrollment by 2020, in line with Article 25-A. MQM misses this important point while PML-F claims to ‘encourage girls’ education’. Moreover, JI vows to provide ‘respectful opportunities to females from primary to higher education level.’ PPP claims it will eliminate gender disparities in education at the primary and secondary level. MQM says it will bring seminaries at par with the mainstream system of education. Meanwhile, JI promise that seminaries will also provide education in other important subjects such as Maths and English, adding that teaching of Quran and Hadith will be made compulsory till intermediate. The PPP says it will initiate seminaries’ reforms with the help of seminaries councils to modernize their education systems. The PTI also aims at improving the seminaries’ education by teaching mainstream subjects as well. The PML-N, ANP and PML-F are silent on this issue.

Daily Times - May 02, 2013

### **A Divided Household: Daughter in PTI, Father in PPP**

Naz Baloch first became interested in joining Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) after the party’s chief, Imran Khan, paid a visit to Mama Parsi Girl’s High School where she studied. He had come to collect funds for his Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital. “We [students] saw him sticking to his words and building the hospital. I started idolizing him since then.” Soon after graduating from St Joseph’s college with a degree in economics, she married a staunch PTI supporter who encouraged her to join the party. PTI leader Fauzia Kasuri, who approached educated people to come out from the confines of their houses and play their part, also motivated her to join the party. And so two years ago she did exactly that, despite the fact that her father is a staunch Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) supporter who has been awarded the party’s ticket for a provincial assembly seat. At her father’s house in Pak Colony, huge PPP banners adorn the walls and nearby pillars while Naz’s posters can be seen some distance away. While drawing room arguments on politics are common in the Baloch household, they have never had an impact on the personal relations. “Father is still stuck with the ideology of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, while I believe in Khan Sahib’s Naya Pakistan. Our siblings are divided about who to support.” So competitive is Naz that she wants Humayun Khan Swati, PTI’s candidate for the same seat her father is vying, to win. “He is my father, but I want my party to win every seat,” she grins. Naz vows to tackle the shortage of potable water, introduce better schools and open maternity homes as well as hospitals in the area.

The Express Tribune - May 02, 2013

### **25-Member UK Mission to Observe Elections**

The UK Election Observation Mission is in addition to both the UK’s support for the EU Election Observation Mission and our part-funding of the Commonwealth’s own election observers. To complement the EU, the UK Mission will observe the electoral process including the work of the election administration, campaigning activities, the conduct of the media, the process of voting and counting, and the announcement of the results. Speaking on the occasion, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, His Excellency Adam Thomson, said: “Credible and acceptable elections on 11 May are of tremendous importance for UK - Pakistan relations. The United Kingdom firmly believes that democratic continuity and consolidation are not only vital for Pakistan’s own well-being, but are also the key to ever-stronger and deeper relations between our two countries.” “International observers are a common feature in elections throughout the world, including in the UK. Observers play a central role in increasing voter’s confidence,

detering electoral fraud and observing the credibility of an election. All UK Election Observers will adhere to Pakistani law and will comply with the Code of Conduct for observers issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan.” “We are committed to supporting Pakistan to develop its democracy. Credible elections that are acceptable to the people of Pakistan are the key to achieving our shared vision of a prosperous and stable Pakistan. Elections in 2013 will mark the first democratic transfer of power from one civilian government to another in Pakistan’s history. They are the clearest opportunity Pakistan has to consolidate and deepen its democracy.”

The News - May 02, 2013

### Pirs in Politics

In Multan, as in many rural parts of the country, the Makhdooms are seen as intercessors. Their status, as custodians of revered local shrines, can also lend candidates an advantage in the “city of saints”. The contest in Multan’s mostly rural constituency of NA-148 pits two Makhdoom families against one another. The quarrel between the Qureshis and the Gilanis stretches back to before elections came to the country. Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Yousuf Raza Gilani both entered local politics in 1983, running for Multan’s District Council. They both secured seats in the 1985 non-party NA elections. And until two years ago, the pirs of Multan were members of the same PPP-led cabinet. Now Gilani’s son Musa is taking on Shah Mehmood in the former foreign minister’s traditional seat, reviving an old and fierce rivalry. Sitting in his redbrick compound, former Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani receives guests who stoop to almost genuflect. Before they can touch his knees, he grabs their hands and lifts them back up. Before he ventures out into the constituency, he flicks open a gold-plated mobile phone and summons support. “Go find me a ’70 model or an ’88 model,” Gilani says to a voice at the other end. He isn’t in search of cars, but PPP supporters from Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto’s first election wins. “Our people,” says Gilani, “don’t vote for other parties. Gilani concedes that as a descendant of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and Abdul Qadir Gilani, the 12th century Mesopotamian saint, he can secure some votes for his three sons and brother who are fighting elections in Multan. The Gilani family’s pirs have devotees in the city. But it won’t be enough. “What matters,” says the former prime minister, it’s your own performance, what you do for the area, the party you represent, and your alliances with other dharras “The PPP is the only party that values our Seraiki people,” he says. “The PPP gave you a Seraiki president, a Seraiki prime minister and speaker, and even a Seraiki foreign minister. “How can he be loyal to you, the people?” Shah Mehmood’s core supporters aren’t fussed about the switch. “If Shah Mehmood goes to Imran Khan’s party, we’re fine,” said one of the villagers. “Even if he goes to the [Indian National] Congress, he’s acceptable to us.” The 34th Makhdoom of Shah Rukne Alam is counting on a personal vote. “But this time we have to vote for the bat says Zain. The influence has traditionally proved electorally lucrative in swathes of south Punjab and Sindh. In Sindh, In 1988, the father of the current Pir of Pagara suffered a stunning defeat to a little known PPP candidate, Pervez Ali Shah. And the Ranipur pirs are now divided among themselves and too weak to influence elections in their area. Voters want roads, sewerage systems, and gas supplies. Gilani’s supporters cheer the fact he is said to have diverted vast sums from Islamabad to Multan. They point to the new bridges, underpasses and roads that have changed the way the city looks. Jobs matter, too. One man squeezed into the back of a Qureshi Prado fondly recalls being summoned by then PML-N provincial minister Shah Mehmood to Lahore in the late 1980s, where he was given a job in Nawaz Sharif’s provincial government of the time. The visit enhanced his standing in the union council where his father was once president. Such occasions also offer the chance to vent freely to a captive audience. When Qasim Gilani - the only Gilani

son not fighting an election - visited a traditional supporter, he was forced to hear out a litany of complaints. In the end, the supporter yielded. "The Gilanis are my pirs, so I can't vote for anyone else." To avoid upsetting more supporters, candidates hasten to every wedding and funeral in the city. "If even a donkey dies today," says Qasim, "every candidate will send someone to offer condolences." The pirs also have powerful rivals in other parts of Multan who don't have the titles or the devotees to match. Different members of the Dogar clan are strong candidates in urban seats. Sikandar Bosan, who is fighting against Abdul Qadir Gilani in NA-151, can draw on an extensive clan for votes and the thousands that live on his land.

Dawn - May 03, 2013

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### **Candidates Campaigning Through SMS**

Taking advantage of the short message service (SMS) packages offered by various mobile phone companies, many candidates and their supporters are using the service sending messages to the people of their constituencies to seek their support. Mobile phone users are receiving such messages, in Urdu and English. The short messages consist of words like 'vote for justice and democracy'. At the end, the candidates have written their names and their party affiliation. Zahid Majid, a resident of Rawalpindi, received 40 such messages from the supporters of various candidates and political parties.

Dawn - May 03, 2013

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### **The Historic May 11 Polls Will Witness the First Ever Democratic Transition of Power**

The Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) and the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) have reached an agreement on seat adjustment for one constituency of National Assembly and three of Sindh Assembly in Karachi. Mohammad Hussain Mehanti, the chief of JI's Karachi chapter, made the disclosure at a press conference at JUI-F office. He said that Jamaat candidates Sabir Ahad, Wasiuddin and Shafiqur Rehman Usmani had withdrawn their candidature in favor of JUI-F aspirants for Sindh Assembly seats of PS-117, PS-96 and PS-98. In return, the JUI-F would support Mr. Mehanti, a candidate from NA-252. Nasrullah Shaji of the JI and Farooq Syed of the JUI-F would be joint candidates of a 10-party alliance, including the Pakistan Muslim League (Functional), from the constituencies of PS-116 and PS-117, he said. The JI and the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) had also agreed on seat adjustment in a national assembly and a provincial assembly constituency in the city, Mr. Mehanti said. The PML-N had withdrawn its candidate Salim Zia from NA-250 in favor of JI aspirant Niamatullah Khan. In return the JI would support Mr. Zia on PS-113.

Dawn - May 05, 2013

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### **Parties Have No Clear Plans to Cut Expenditure**

Almost all mainstream political parties have done a 'commendable job' in preparing their election manifestos highlighting critical economic issues that need to be addressed immediately, but most of them have not clearly highlighted 'expenditure rationalization and reduction agenda'. "The convergence of all the manifestos on attaching priorities to the critical areas shows that the political parties are aware of the gravity of the situation," says a study released by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). This is indicative of the fact that political parties have paid heed to policy advice coming from the Planning Commission, says the

study titled 'A socio-economic assessment of manifestos: election 2013'. According to the study about the parties' take on socio-economic issues, tackling the energy crisis is among the top agendas of almost all the manifestos. To resolve the energy crisis, the parties have suggested various measures, including one-time settlement of circular debt, public-private partnership to build dams, reducing cost of production through better governance and management, and appointment of professionals in the energy sector. They have vowed to increase the tax-to-GDP ratio and reduce the fiscal deficit besides promising to limit government borrowing.

Specifically, the solutions include reducing the incidence of indirect taxes, introducing agriculture income tax, granting operational independence and autonomy to the Federal Board of Revenue, rationalizing tax rates, curtailing expenditures and revamping and privatizing of PSEs (public sector enterprises) to bolster tax revenues. All the major parties have also promised to do away with SROs (statutory regulatory orders). The study, however, shows that most of the parties have not clearly highlighted the expenditure rationalization and reduction agenda and that due attention has not been given to the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation (FRDL) 2005 Act, which is important because it introduces measures to ensure fiscal responsibility. All the proposed measures are doubtlessly needed but it is unlikely that such measures alone would increase GDP growth, says the study. Though, it would create much-needed fiscal space but for low fiscal deficit and high tax-to-GDP ratio to translate into sustained economic growth much more is needed. There have been repeated calls for reform of the civil service (bureaucracy) but little has been done so far in this area. The assessment of the manifestos shows that each political party has come up with different ideas about reforming the governance and civil services structure.

Other measures highlighted by the parties are decentralization of service delivery to the district level to improve efficiency, devolution, result-based management and monetization of all perks. The parties are hopeful that they will be able to achieve high rates of investment, once they come to power. The proposed measures include tapping all those government sector investment opportunities which attract private investment and liberation of small-scale industries from bureaucracy. Other salient steps outlined by the parties to boost investment are the ease of credit facility and provision of infrastructure to boost growth, and building of special economic zones. It is apparent from the manifestos that almost all the major parties are very serious about building new infrastructure, be it roads, dams, schools, or industrial zones. It is hard to deny the fact that investment in infrastructure is vital as it leads to employment creation. At the same time, such visible projects help to improve the scorecard of the political parties. However, Pakistan's chequered economic growth shows that physical infrastructure has not consistently contributed to economic growth and development. The study concludes that the political parties have undertaken elaborate efforts to prepare their manifestos. However, there is a need for a clear articulation of the underlying macroeconomic framework that will ensure consistency of the proposed economic policies and their outcomes.

Dawn - May 05, 2013

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### **Parties' Manifestos: Call To Promise Protection for Minorities**

Representatives of civil society organizations and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) have urged all political parties to include protection of minorities' rights in their manifestoes and policies ahead of general election and implement them when they come to power. Speaking at a press conference, co-manager of the Pakistan Institute of Labor Education and Research, Shujauddin Qureshi, representatives of the Green Rural Development Organization Dr Ghulam Haider and Veeru Kohli and HRCP Sindh task force coordinator Dr

Ashothama lamented that the problems being faced by minorities had disappeared from the manifestoes and policies of political parties contesting election. They said that a grave sense of deprivation was spreading among minorities, especially in Christians and lower caste Hindus working in blue collar professions. The representatives demanded implementation of already present laws in the constitution which guaranteed fundamental rights to minorities and seats according to the minorities' population in provincial and national assemblies. They said to avoid prejudice in court cases, judges belonging to minority communities should deal with cases of minorities. Other demands included implementing of laws against hate speech and ban on such literature, amendments in the blasphemy law, restoration of local government system with the inclusion of members of minority communities, conduct of an impartial census, de-politicization of the police force and revision of school syllabus.

### **Religious Parties Allege Harassment**

Leaders of religious parties and candidates for national and provincial assembly seats urged caretaker government and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to take action against Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) activists who, according to them, were preventing religious parties from launching their election campaigns in Hyderabad. Addressing a joint press conference on Friday, Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP) president and NA-220 candidate Sahibzada Abul Khair Mohammad Zubair, Sindh Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) deputy general secretary and PS-46 candidate Abdul Waheed Qureshi and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazal (JUI-F) Hyderabad district Amir Moulana Taj Mohammad Nahiyoonn said that the ECP code of conduct was not being implemented in Hyderabad. They said that activists and candidates of JI and JUP were being snatched handbills and pamphlets while posters, banners and flags of their parties were being removed in Hyderabad. They alleged that MQM activists had been continuously harassing activists of religious parties and in some cases had even roughed up them during campaigning in Shahi Bazaar, Sarfaraz Colony, Latifabad Unit no 12 and other localities. They alleged that the MQM had set up party offices in government buildings, including hospital and educational institutions, and said that the party wanted to hold the polling staff and teachers and hostage. A presiding officer must be a gazetted officer; however, the candidates alleged that the MQM had given these responsibilities to officers from grade 12 to 15. They appealed to caretaker government and the ECP to pay heed to their complaints against the MQM and address them immediately. They claimed that they had reported incidents of harassment at police stations concerned but not a single FIR had been lodged so far. The candidates said that the ECP seemed helpless before MQM activists, adding that the role of Sindh governor and caretaker government in the province was partial since they had given a free hand to the MQM for stopping campaigns of other parties. They also said they believed that the caretaker government was planning to bring an incompetent government after the election. They termed the threat of Taliban in Karachi as a decoy used by the MQM to hush up their performance during the past five years. They also alleged that the MQM had made no-go areas in Hyderabad too, such as area around Pucca Qila.

Dawn - May 05, 2013

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### **Election Preparations: Ballot Papers for Punjab Still In Print**

Secretary Election Commission Ishtiaq Ahmed has said that on Sunday that out of 180 million, 150 million ballot papers were already printed and sent to Fata, Sindh, Khyber-Pakhtunkwa and Balochistan. "The rest of the 30 million ballot papers, which need to be sent to Punjab, are still being printed but will be soon sent to the province," he said. The ECP secretary said that the poll body had received the final list of polling stations according to which 69,875 stations have been

set up across the country. He added that the ECP has so far received 313 complaints regarding polling stations. Responding to a question, the secretary said that in keeping with the Supreme Court directive the electoral body has not made unnecessary changes in the list of polling stations used in 2008. He added that the apex court had also asked the ECP to establish polling stations keeping in mind the distance it would take for the voters to travel. The SC had directed ECP to keep the polling station within two kilometers from each other. The secretary stated that though the top court had asked the election commission to explore the feasibility of transport provision to the voters on the polling day, keeping in mind the budget estimates it was not a viable idea. However, he clarified that political parties are still restricted to arrange for the voters' transportation. Ahmed said, "There are chances that mobile service can be suspended (on polling day) as part of security arrangements as provinces are working on this in collaboration with federation". He requested the voters to get their E-Tickets soon to avoid any inconvenience due to the ban on cell service on the polling day. Replying to a query with reference to the Pakistan Peoples Party's paid content being aired on news channels against Pakistan Muslim League's leadership, he said that personal attacks were strictly prohibited. He added that chairman PEMRA has been directed to immediately put the said content off air and submit the expenditure report of these ads at ECP. He told a questioner that security arrangements would be further strengthened for the high profile leadership, candidates, polling stations and ECP's staffers in coming days.

The Express Tribune - May 06, 2013

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### **Political Parties Urged To Take Women, Children Seriously**

Political parties have been urged to priorities children and women's rights in their manifestoes. Shirakat, an NGO working for the promotion of human rights in Pakistan stated that it is time for the political leadership to respond to the 'Charter of Demands for Women and Children's Rights' (CDWCR) in the upcoming general elections. Bilquis Tahira, Executive Director of Shirakat presented eleven demands on behalf of women and seven of the children, saying the purpose of the CDWCR is to make women and children's voice part of the political agenda. There should be women-friendly legislation in adherence to the global, regional and national approaches and implementation must be in true letter and spirit with all discriminatory laws repealed, demanded the NGO adding that women must be given equal number of public sector jobs and they must be provided equal opportunity for educational, training and professional learning. Shirakat further said that for a peaceful and tolerant society it is mandatory to devise strategies and plans in the relevant context and background. Bilquis Tahira said the state must protect sovereignty of the country by providing peaceful environment to all the citizenry in order to utilize their full potential. She called on the rulers to address the issue of 'missing persons' since that had severely disturbed many families. Bilquis Tahira articulated that women's role in the formal and informal sector of the economy must be recognized and included in GDP. Shirakat also demanded that every child should be free from burden of the debt. The CDWCR demands elimination of all violent and degrading practices against women. It also required effective measures of the concerned authorities to save the life and property of citizens and to address the present spate of sectarian violence in Pakistan. Shirakat said that relevant education including education on citizenship and civics should be provided and education system must be made uniform for the rich and the poor. A number of other demands were put forward: The State must make poverty reduction its top priority through inclusive development. Our children must be free of debt burden. Corporal punishment in school must not be allowed. Recreation facilities must be available and accessible for both girls and boys in schools and in public places.

Teachers' attendance in schools must be ensured. Eliminate degrading and violent practices against women.

Daily Times - May 07, 2013

### District Profile: Voters Opt For Silence over Explicit Support

Attock district has refused to become a fortress for any single political party. The upcoming polls will see a clash between individuals, not ideologies or party affiliations, for the three National Assembly seats – NA-57, NA-58 and NA-59. Electioneering is well under way, with door-to-door campaigns and corner meetings in full swing. However, voters are 'silent' about their political picks, especially in the urban areas. According to analysts, these 'silent' voters – the ones who welcome every candidate who knocks on their door, but refrain from declaring their explicit support for anyone – are the ones that will make the difference at the end. "Their policy is: wait and see. They take a decision only when a winner is clearly visible," said Muhammad Siddiq, a local businessmen and political worker who has been observing voting patterns in the area. NA-57, which comprises Attock City, Hazro, Kamra Cantonment, Barotha, Jalalia, Shadi Khan and other areas, will see a contest between essentially the same three candidates from the 2008 elections. The previous winner, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is in the run once again, as is the runner up, Malik Amin Aslam, who is contesting from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s platform this time around. The only major change is that second runner-up, Eman Waseem, has been replaced by her father, Major Tahir Sadiq. He is contesting as an independent, under the Major Group banner. By all accounts, the competition between the three will be tough.

All three candidates have come into the ring well prepared. Aftab's work during his tenure was appreciated by many, but some complained that he remained 'unavailable' in times of need. "Sheikh Aftab has done some good things, but he failed to resolve our major problems," said Shehzada Khan, a rickshaw driver. According to Shehzad, his area is facing acute gas shortage and frequent power outages even today, despite having a hydel power plant at Ghazi Barotha. On the other hand, Major Tahir, who served as district nazim previously, was supposedly available throughout and listened to all grievances. He created 18,000 jobs for the youth, and is also credited with giving Attock two universities, plus various development projects. "I will vote for Major this time. I went to him twice for my job and he welcomed me, treated me well," said Hafiz Shoaib, salesman at a local shop. Local pundits said PTI's Malik Amin also has a very good chance of taking home the crown. Because of his strong, political family background, and the support of the Malik clan, he enjoys a large vote-bank. Furthermore, he had won the 2002 polls. NA-58 and NA-59 mainly comprise rural areas, and biradari politics dominate the region. More often than not, the influence of the local landlords reigns supreme. The winners of elections past often have biradari backing, and can stage easy comebacks.

NA-58, encompassing Pindi Gheb, Jand, Jal Wal, Dhullian, Makhad, Kot Chhaji, Ganda Khas and other areas, has five contestants battling it out. Of these, analysts predict that the main rounds will be between PTI's Malik Sohail Khan and Major Tahir Sadiq. Many consider Sohail, the winner of the previous election, to be the running favorite. However, Major Tahir's influence has declined. The situation is similar in NA-59, where, once again, the tried and tested winner – PPP's Sardar Saleem Haider Khan – is believed to be the favorite. Also contesting the seat is Major Tahir's son, Muahmmad Zain Elahi, and PTI's Sardar Muhammad Ali Khan, both of whom are considered heavyweights in their own right. While there is no clear winner in sight for any of these three seats, the silent voters may sway results in unlikely directions, ensuring an interesting showdown.

The Express Tribune - May 09, 2013

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### **President Zardari Signed the Election Laws (Amendment) Ordinance-2013**

Pakistan's Asif Ali Zardari issued an ordinance granting the right to vote to overseas Pakistanis, Dawn News reported. The ordinance came into immediate effect after President Zardari signed the Election Laws (Amendment) Ordinance-2013 on Thursday over the advice of the caretaker Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso.

Dawn - May 09, 2013

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### **Strict Measures: Rigging Polls Will Be Harder This Time**

Rigging these elections will not be a simple task this year as the election commission claims to have introduced measure that will reduce bogus votes by up to 90 per cent. "If any political party wants to rig the elections then it will need to coerce the entire polling station team," said an election officer, requesting his name to be withheld. The officer will be carrying out his duties on May 11 at a polling station on Korangi. He completed his election training with the Election Commission of Pakistan. Since these elections will be the first time the presiding officers will be verifying the voters with their photographs on the electoral rolls and then issuing ballot papers, the chances of casting bogus votes will be relatively low. The ballot papers must also have the voter's thumbprint along with the stamp of the presiding officer, he added. The officer recalled that in the past elections, political parties would prepare the ballot papers three days in advance and would cast bogus votes without any fear. But this time, the situation is different, he said confidently. Nevertheless, the ballot paper will not have the photograph of the voter.

The election staff's integrity is questionable, he admitted, adding that most of the officers in training with him were affiliated with the political parties in Karachi. The presence of the armed forces in the vicinity has put a damper on any rigging plans. Mohammad Haroon, an activist of a political party, told that his group used to cast bogus votes for their party during every election but this time they have their doubts because of the army. "One of our group members would get into a scuffle with someone at a polling station to grab the polling agents' attention," he explained, adding they usually hit the polling station an hour before polling ends. "While he kept the election staff busy in the fight, the rest of the group would cast bogus votes at gunpoint." He admitted that they cast around 300 to 500 voters for their party's candidate at their own polling station.

The Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) is still having its reservations about the neutrality of the polls. JI's Raja Arif Sultan feels these elections are no different from the previous ones in terms of rigging because the army will not be present inside the polling stations. "Who will come to ensure the new rules set by the ECP are being observed or not when the polling station teams will be party workers themselves?" he asked. Sultan has been observing JI's election campaigns in Karachi's district South since 1985. "These elections will be no different than previous ones if a political party captures a polling station, expel polling agents from rival parties and force the polling station team to cast bogus votes."

Muttahida Qaumi Movement's (MQM) Khawaja Izharul Hassan welcomed the new ECP rules to control rigging but was unhappy with the security threats against them, the ANP and the PPP. "We would call it pre-poll rigging if the voter turnout dropped because of security threats in the city," he said. "Liberal and progressive voters are under threat and the rest will come freely to cast their votes." Hassan also rejected all claims that MQM activists were involved in pre-poll

rigging. “When the MQM boycotted the elections then didn’t these parties bag all the votes?” he asked.

**The Express Tribune - May 10, 2013**

### **Fears, Doubts, Hope, Ambition Come In a Package for Pakistan**

Fears, doubts, and hope, ambition— they all come in a package for Pakistan where days before an election, it is still possible for the people to wonder suspiciously: are we going to have an election? It is not unusual for a general election in Pakistan to be an incomplete affair as the case of the first general election held in 1970 shows. The Awami League won a majority but was denied power and this ended in the creation of Bangladesh. The 1977 election was rigged and led to a coup and to the judicial murder of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Political parties were barred in the 1985 polls and, in 1988; a policy to contain the PPP was executed. That policy was in full force in 1990 as evidenced in the Asghar Khan case. The 1993 election was boycotted by the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (now Muttahida Qaumi Movement). One of the main beneficiaries of the MQM boycott then was the Jamaat-i-Islami and in 1997, it was the JI’s turn to stay away from the polls. The 2002 election was engineered. The top leadership of the PML-N was in exile and the PPP chairperson also decided to not return to the country for that election due to pending court cases. It was still a few years before Benazir Bhutto was to strike a deal with Gen Musharraf, which paved the way for her return and that of the Sharifs to Pakistani politics. The 2008 election was boycotted by many. The JI refused to be drawn into the exercise, even though as part of the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal, it had provided some political weight to the general. Imran Khan was another ex-Musharraf ally who did not take part, but the most conspicuous absence was that of the nationalists in Baluchistan, which was still reeling under the fatal blow Gen Musharraf dealt Akbar Bugti. Come election 2013, and the containment job was taken over by the militants. The Taliban spelt out their disapproval of the PPP, MQM and the Awami National Party in no uncertain terms, and in Balochistan a band of insurgents with their own ideology sought to thwart the polls. Rallies were attacked in Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Punjab, where two parties whose credentials had been approved by the Taliban appeared to be locked in a battle, was fortunately spared. Punjab has always been the ‘key’. The unevenness of the 2013 polls have added a new dimension to Pakistan’s choice: the new leader has to be approved by Punjab and selected by the extremists, or vice versa. But the prevailing fear predates the militants’ disapproval. It is rooted in the frequent derailing of the system of democracy. It will take Pakistanis a while to get used to the new ‘conspiracy’ hatched by elements who avowedly claim there is no turning back of democracy here anymore. The delicate system has to be frequently propped up by calls by the army chief and the international powers. And the words of these guardians have an urgent ring to them that is reserved for the new entrants. So it is a fresh start once more for a new Pakistan rather than a continuation of the ‘grand’ tradition that the restoration of democracy in 2008 had kicked off.

**The Express Tribune - May 10, 2013**

### **High Praise: Electoral System Gets C’ Wealth Thumbs Up**

As millions of Pakistanis head to the polling stations today to exercise their right to vote, the head of the Commonwealth Observer Mission has acknowledged that Pakistan has made ‘tremendous strides’ in improving its electoral system, which could now match that of any developed democracy. “We have heard reports that the electoral roll has been much improved, which is encouraging. I think the electoral roll in Pakistan is now one of the best among the

Commonwealth countries,” Sir Douglas Kidd. However, he said there were certain areas of concerns, including millions of women voters, who were still missing from the electoral rolls. “We hope in due course of time this will be taken care of,” Kidd added. The Commonwealth team will be deployed in Punjab, Sindh and Islamabad to observe the voting and counting process. The volatile security situation in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan and tribal regions bordering Afghanistan prevented international observers from travelling there, Kidd said. He also raised concern over the deadly wave of militant violence against political parties – including Pakistan People’s Party, Awami National Party and Muttahida Qaumi Movement. “There is a high level of insecurity related to the polls, with some parties facing a particular threat, and the loss of life in election-related violence – notably in some areas – is of great concern,” the knighted observer added. According to an AFP count, 127 people were killed in violence in the run-up to the historic elections. Kidd offered condolences to the families of all victims. However, he hoped that the violence would not continue on polling day and voters would use their right of franchise in a peaceful atmosphere. Kidd, who is a former speaker of the House of Representatives of New Zealand, said the democratic transition of power from one civilian government to another would be a key milestone in the 66-year history of Pakistan. “It is also significant that these elections will be held under a series of new constitutional amendments which have, among other things, strengthened the ECP (Election Commission of Pakistan). We have met with the ECP and they have told us that they are ready for the polls, and we very much hope that this is the case.” The Commonwealth Observer Mission is mandated to consider all the factors impinging on the credibility of the electoral process. It will assess whether the elections have been conducted according to the standards for democratic elections to which Pakistan has committed itself.

**The Express Tribune - May 11, 2013**

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### **Election Postponed In Kurram, Muzaffargarh**

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced postponement of elections in two more constituencies due to security concerns and the death of a candidate. Acting on reports of the law and order situation filed by the district returning officer in Kurram Agency, the ECP announced to postpone election in NA-38 Tribal Area-III until further notice. A notification said that the ECP was exercising its powers under Section 25 of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1976. Earlier in the day, scores of people took to the streets in a protest on Sher Shah Suri Road, demanding the ECP to postpone general election in NA-38 Kurram Agency amid deteriorating security situation. Holding placards and banners, the protesters were reportedly led by local elders, Malak Zaman, Ghafar Khan and Aurangzeb Khan. Protesters said it was too risky for them to go to polling stations and cast their ballot, which was why the ECP should postpone election for NA-38 until peace was established and displaced people returned to their hometowns. Meanwhile, following the death of PP-254 Muzaffargarh-IV candidate Mushtaq Ahmad, the returning officer concerned terminated the election proceedings in the constituency, according to an ECP notification. It added that the returning officer concerned had issued public notices under Section 18 of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1976. Fresh proceedings for election in the constituency will begin after the general election, with the ECP announcing a schedule later. However, the ECP secretary said that the remaining contesting candidates do not need to file fresh nomination papers or make further deposits. It is likely that the ECP will also postpone election in PS-95 Orangi after an independent candidate was killed on Friday evening. Earlier this week, the ECP had postponed election in NA-241 after the Awami National Party candidate was shot dead.

**Daily Times - May 11, 2013**

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### **Aurat Foundation Rejects Election Results from Some Constituencies**

Over a hundred female election observers of Aurat Foundation monitored election activities from gender perspective throughout the day at 553 women polling stations in major cities of Pakistan in collaboration with international monitors of Gender Concerns International (GCI). Election monitoring was undertaken in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Swabi, Kohat, Swat, Abbottabad, Mardan, Lower Dir, Hyderabad, Thatta, Sargodha, Bhakkar, Vehari and Gujranwala. Aurat Foundation and GCI will issue a preliminary report on their mission tomorrow (May 13). Some of the initial findings of Gender Election Monitoring (GEM) Mission are: Voting for General Elections 2013 remained peaceful and orderly by and large in the country except for a few untoward incidents. Long queues of women voters, particularly large number of young voters, were witnessed at the polling stations. This shows an anticipated high election turnout and increased participation of women in elections, particularly on the polling day. In Sargodha, women voted for the first time in history in union councils Lilliani and Moazamabad.

There were reports of widespread violations of women's electoral rights in several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where they were barred from voting forcibly through political party agreements or under threatening circumstances. In Upper Dir women were barred from voting in the entire district and only one woman was able to cast her vote in UC Darora. In Lower Dir women were stopped from voting in seven constituencies, and in Buner district women were not allowed to vote in 17 UCs. Women were also barred to vote in several constituencies in Mardan, D.I.Khan, Nowshera, Batagram and Malakand. Aurat Foundation called on the ECP to declare elections null and void elections in these constituencies due to this flagrant violation of election rules and code of ethics.

Security situation at women polling stations was satisfactory. Women police personnel were seen only at a few places, however, male police and other security arrangements were adequate. The area identified the foundation included Upper Dir, Lower Dir, Kamangarah, Bajwaro, Pato, Bankot, Sari, Ouch, Buner, Mardan, Kotki, Katlung, D.I. Khan, Garah Essa Khail, Nowshera, Choki mumraiz, Batagaram, Ajmera, Malakand, Dargai, Heroshah and Haryan Kot. Women voters' knowledge about vote-casting procedure was of average nature in urban centres, however, in rural areas and in rural suburbs of cities women generally lacked information about voting. The ECP's SMS facility in vote tracking benefited literate women voters, in cities, however, many voters even in cities and mostly in rural areas had to approach political party camps for getting polling booth's code number and serial number of vote. The environment of transparency in vote-casting in the polling booths saw much improvement and the system of checks and balances in the procedure of vote-casting made overall environment voter-friendly. The complaints of inadequate physical space within the polling booths were received from most of the polling stations and rooms were filled with women voters at the peak hours, which created chaos. There were no washrooms for polling staff as well as women voters at most of the stations. Location of women polling stations was reachable by voters and no major complaints were received at the polling stations visited by the election monitors, except for some rural constituencies. The polling staff was cooperative, however many were inexperienced. Polling staff at most women polling stations was female but there were male presiding officers at several combined polling stations and several polling women polling stations in Karachi. Several polling stations in Karachi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also complained of insufficient election material.

**Daily Times - May 12, 2013**

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### **Presiding Officers Accountable for Every Ballot Paper: Re-Polling On 19<sup>th</sup> May**

About reports of over 100 per cent turnout at some polling stations across the country, the official said the presiding officers were bound under the law to provide a certified copy of the vote count to the polling agents. “The presiding officers concerned will have to face action if they are found involved in any illegal practice.” The official said the parties, candidates and polling agents having proof of rigging should come forward. Five election tribunals had been set up in Punjab and three each in other provinces. He said the ECP also had the power to order re-polling if undeniable evidence of rigging was provided to it. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) urged the ECP to immediately hold an inquiry under the Representation of the People Act, 1976, into what it termed gross rigging allegedly committed by its opponents in the general elections. The party’s additional secretary general, Saifullah Khan Niazi, claimed that the party had managed to collect undeniable evidence to prove that gross irregularities had been committed by its opponents across the country. He said that besides recounting, the ECP should also match the thumb impressions on the counterfoils of ballot papers with the National database and Registration Authority (Nadra) record. He said the commission must take stern action against those government officials who had failed to perform their duties in accordance with the laws and election rules. The Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (Pildat) also urged the ECP and Nadra to immediately carry out an audit of thumb impressions in the constituencies where complaints of rigging had been made, especially in Karachi and Lahore. “Since Nadra has authenticated thumb impressions of voters in its database, these should be compared with the thumb impressions affixed on the picture electoral rolls and the counterfoils of the ballot papers on the day of the election and any discrepancy should be brought to the notice of the ECP.” It said that in case of mismatch of thumb impressions, the results of that polling station should be declared void.

Dawn - May 15, 2013

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### **Election 2013 Makes Pakistan a Strong Democracy**

Former Vice Chairman of Punjab Bar Council and senior Advocate of Supreme Court of Pakistan, Muhammad Ramzan Chudhary said that democracy is going to strengthen further in Pakistan because of successful transition of a democratic government to another. “It now depends on the upcoming government of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz on how they work for democracy, if they solve the existing problems in Pakistan like load shading, unemployment and other public issues. If they do that then it would be a success for democracy,” he said. Ramzan told that Pakistan’s political and economic future was now the responsibility of PML-N, which has been elected with a large mandate. Former secretary of Lahore High Court Bar Association, Rana Asad-ullah said, “Democracy will be more stable in Pakistan after general election and PML-N’s re-emergence.” He expressed the hope that Pakistan’s political and economic future would be bright. “Mian Nawaz Sharif is a very experienced politician and his party should solve the problems, failing which people could treat the PML-N the way they determined the fate of Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) in these elections.” He also suggested that the government and the judiciary should take serious action against General (retired) Pervez Musharraf. Senior Supreme Court advocate Ch. Abdul Gaffar said “the people of Pakistan believe in democracy and they have also proved by showing their power and exercising their right to vote in the election with the highest ever voter turnout in the country.”

Daily Times - May 20, 2013

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### **Poll-Fixing Allegations: Winners Aside, Balochistan Parties Demand Re-Elections**

In a surprising move, almost all political parties in Balochistan, apart from Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) and National Party have demanded re-polls in Balochistan. Rejecting the results of the May 11 general election, they termed it a well-thought-out scheme of the establishment to declare certain groups victorious. The PkMAP and NP won the highest number of seats among the Balochistan-based parties. The leaders of the APC said that the ECP had failed to protect and implement its rules and regulations across the country generally and particularly in Balochistan; therefore, hidden forces, polling staff and others connived to help a particular ethnic group succeed in the elections. They said that Chief Election Commissioner had ensured them during his visit to Quetta that no bogus votes would be cast and if any proof of a single bogus vote was produced, stern action would be taken against the RO, Presiding Officer and other concerned authorities. However, despite mass scale rigging, no action has been taken by the ECP, they maintained, while demanding the chief justice to take suo moto notice. The leaders also demanded the formation of a judicial commission, comprising of a judge of apex court, to award stern punishment to those involved in rigging. They also accused NADRA and security forces of collaborating in rigging process. The APC announced to launch a protest movement from May 26 onwards against the alleged rigging.

**The Express Tribune - May 25, 2013**

### **FAFEN Report on Elections & Reactions**

#### **FAFEN Terms Elections ‘Relatively Fair’**

A report released by Fafen Chairman Zahid Islam during a press conference said that in some areas of the country, including parts of Karachi, people were not freely allowed to take part in voting process and in some constituencies women were barred from casting their votes. The report said the situation in Karachi was so worrisome that it was not clear if the results reflected free will of voters. It cited violence, boycotts of elections by some political parties during mid-polling, obstructions in the work of election observers and administrative failures in Karachi. The report praised the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for a smooth process, saying it had implemented several positive reforms. It indicated irregularities also in some parts of Punjab and said because of poor security situation in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (Fata) it was difficult to say that elections results reflected free will of voters. The report said the election 2013 was notable for both colorful and competitive campaigning in Punjab and violence and terror attacks in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. “The relatively high voter turnout and public enthusiasm for this election augurs well for democratic consolidation, bringing potential for more sustained citizen engagement and improved public accountability and governance,” the report said.

**Dawn - May 13, 2013**

#### **Cases against FAFEN for Misreporting Poll Results**

Punjab police are reported to have registered at least 16 cases against the Fair and Free Election Network (Fafen), a polling observer organisation, for allegedly misreporting results of some polling stations in the province and releasing them to the media. DIG (operations) Jawad Ahmad Dogar told Dawn on Thursday that up to 10 FIRs had been lodged in as many city police stations on the instructions of district returning officers who stated that the results of some polling

stations had been misreported by Fafen which claimed that the number of votes cast had exceeded the total number of votes. But Fafen's chief executive officer Mudassar Rizvi said the organisation had already withdrawn its list of 'controversial' results of 40 polling stations across the country, including 22 in Punjab, after a meeting with officials of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Over 40,000 Fafen observers were engaged in the exercise. Mr. Rizvi said that according to his information police had so far nominated him in 16 cases registered in Lahore and Rahim Yar Khan, adding that he did not know if cases had also been registered in other cities. He said section 505 (B) (statements conducing to public mischief) of the PPC had been invoked in the FIR

Dawn - May 17, 2013

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### **FAFEN Says Merger of Polling Stations Led To Result Errors**

Speaking at press conference at the National Press Club, FAFEN representative Sarwar Bari said the confusion had been created by returning officers who just 24-30 hours before holding of elections changed the status of several polling stations — either merging them or shifting some of the polling booths. This led to release of the list of some polling stations showing 100 per cent turnout. He also apologized to media over the matter. Later, FAFEN retracted its statement and clarified that it was the result of some confusion. Mr. Bari also expressed concern over registration of cases against FAFEN CEO Mudassar Rizvi and threats hurled against him by some politicians. "We have evidence in the form of SMS and even a threatening call has been received from Ayaz Sadiq, the PML-N leader who won from NA-122," said Mr. Bari. "The caller from the personal number of Ayaz Sadiq, the MNA-elect, told Mudassar Rizvi that he would not be allowed to live in Pakistan." Flanked by social activist Marvi Sirmed and others, Mr Bari said that due to threats Muddassar Rizvi had been forced to reduce his public interaction. "But this does not mean that we can be cowed down by such acts. We only want to take precautions to protect his life," he said. The NA-122 is included in the list of 40 National Assembly constituencies where FAFEN had reported more than 100 per cent voter turnout or vote rigging.

Ms Marvi Sirmed said that it was being claimed now that the change or merging of polling stations had been carried out after consultations with FAFEN or other NGOs, but this was not true. She said that it took time for observers to understand the flaw and the list was withdrawn when the situation became clear. Mr. Bari said that the same problem had been reported from many areas where the 8300 service was unable to guide voters to their polling stations. "This is because the ECP had original data that was being provided by mobile companies through Nadra, but ROs had changed the location," Mr. Bari said. He said that to cover up their faults, returning officers had got 16 cases registered against Mudassar Rizvi. "We have come across reports that ballot papers were found on streets. Some footage have also been shown by some TV channels as the evidence, but no FIR has been registered against any officer concerned and no action has been taken against them. FAFEN representatives also said that a majority of returning officers added to the confusion by not pasting a copy of the Form XIV outside the polling station after results had been announced. The Form XIV contains details of the number of votes cast at a polling station and obtained by each candidate in that particular polling station. The FAFEN representatives said that the confusion could be reduced if the number of registered voters in each polling station was also written in the Form XIV.

Dawn - May 18, 2013

### **FAFEN Seeks More Poll Data**

The Free and Fair Election Network (Fafen) has announced that it will launch a nationwide campaign to demand the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to release polling station and constituency data. Fafen released on Wednesday its observation about the recent general elections ‘Key findings and recommendations’ which called for more transparency in finalization of election results. Its other recommendation was related to resolution of election result disputes, which has to be time-sensitive, much more transparent and efficient. Fafen lauded the ECP’s plan about appointing retired judges to head election tribunals because they would be able to concentrate exclusively on the time-sensitive election result petitions. Such petitions should be disposed of within 120 days under the law. Fafen asked the ECP to publicize procedures to address petitions related to election-day complaints and post-election results.

**Dawn - May 23, 2013**

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**GOVERNANCE WATCH****Government Working****18th Amendment Limits Cabinet Size**

The days of forming large cabinets at centre and in provinces to keep everybody happy are over because of restrictions imposed by two articles inserted into the constitution by the 18th amendment, which have become effective for the first time after the May 11 elections. The constraint will test accommodating skills of political parties which are in a position to form governments, particularly in the three smaller provinces, because they will have very little to offer to their coalition partners or will have to sacrifice key ministries to make alliances. Article 92 of the constitution says about federal cabinet: "... the total strength of the Cabinet, including Ministers of State, shall not exceed eleven per cent of the total membership of Majlis-i-Shoora (Parliament)." After the enforcement of the article, the strength of federal cabinet cannot exceed 49 members because the total membership of parliament comes to 446 (342 MNAs and 104 senators). Since the PML-N has acquired sufficient strength to form government on its own at the centre and in Punjab, it will face no problem in forming cabinets there. But the amendments may make the process of government formation difficult in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, according to political observers. Article 130(6) of the constitution says: "... the total strength of the Cabinet shall not exceed 15 members, or eleven per cent of the total membership of a provincial assembly, whichever is higher." Chief Ministers of Balochistan and KP can have a cabinet of 15 members at most while the size of the Sindh cabinet cannot exceed 19 members. If the 11 per cent formula is applied, a 41-member cabinet can be formed in Punjab because its assembly has 371 members. Political observers believe that the process of government formation in the three smaller provinces, particularly in Balochistan which always has a coalition government, has now become difficult. Despite having the smallest assembly in terms of its strength, Balochistan has always had a large cabinet as compared to other provinces. There were more than 50 members, out of a total of 65 MPAs, in the previous cabinet, headed by Nawab Aslam Raisani. Sindh and KP also had large cabinets because their ruling parties had to give a major share in the ministries to their coalition partners.

Dawn - May 15, 2013

**Eradicating Corruption: NAB Shifts Focus from Enforcement to Prevention Regime**

Following the example of developed countries, the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) biggest breakthroughs in 2012 was the shift in its focus from enforcement to prevention regime. Despite facing human resource constraints, the bureau also prosecuted key graft cases, says the NAB report released on Friday. Justifying the move, NAB Chairman Admiral (retired) Fasih Bokhari said that over the past 65 years, 59 types of 'enforcement' legislation has not worked as a tool for ridding the country of corruption. Pakistan's absolute corruption index remained unchanged at 2.5/10 since the inception of Transparency International Corruption Perception Index. This, the report states, is an indication of major systemic flaws in the constitutional, legislative, regulatory, and governance structure. The prevention framework, which began in March 2012, complies with the standards set by the UN Convention against Corruption. Through prevention regime, organizations' like NAB do not allow collusion of bureaucratic, political and private sector interests. In a highly-politicized environment, the report states, NAB's focus on prevention regime starts with the bureaucracy. "Regulators of the state need to be given

support and independence from political and financial pressures.” The legislative and regulatory structures of the state need to be reviewed to remove discretionary and service anomalies, the annual report states. In order to allow greater autonomy to regional bureaus and ensure speedy process of decision making, the NAB chairman has delegated sufficient operational as well as administrative powers to directors general of regional bureaus, says the report. NAB claims in its annual report to have recovered Rs25 billion in 2012 through voluntary returns and plea bargains. It has formed several committees in major areas of governance in an attempt to improve performance on a sustainable basis. The bureau processed 7,889 complaints, completed 392 inquiries and filed 95 references in accountability courts. According the report, the influx of complaints multiplied as the bureau received 7,565 complaints reaching a total of 9,353 complaints, including the existing backlog of 1,788.

**The Express Tribune - May 18, 2013**

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### **Zardari-Nawaz Meeting Unlikely In Lahore**

Chances are thin that President Asif Ali Zardari will meet Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif when the former arrives in Lahore on a two-day today (Sunday). President Zardari will be visiting the provincial capital to have a meeting with senior leadership of the Pakistan People’s Party to find out the root cause of his party’s humiliating defeat in the general election and to hammer out a strategy to revitalise the party in the province. Zardari and Nawaz will, however, be meeting at a reception hosted in the honour of the Chinese premier at the Presidency on May 22, as the invitation extended by President Zardari has already been accepted by Nawaz Sharif.

**Daily Times - May 19, 2013**

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### **‘Upcoming Government Should Focus On Good Governance’**

The business community of federal capital on Monday stressed upcoming new government should focus on good governance and political stability, which were must for economic stability and investment in the country. Zafar Bakhtawari President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) demanded the government has to give top priority to improving economy as Pakistan could not make sound progress without turning around its sagging economy. Talking to Tariq Saeed Chairman Business Panel Group and Vice President of Confederation of Asia Pacific Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) Bakhtawari lauded the efforts of Tariq Saeed whose lifetime services have earned him unparalleled respect on national and global level. He said there should be continued process of table talks between the representatives of public and private sector and the government should give weight age to the voice of the private sector, which was the main engine of economic growth, he maintained.

**Daily Times - May 21, 2013**

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### **SC Suspends Transfers, Appointments by Caretaker Government**

Suspending all appointments, transfers/postings and shuffling of senior officials by the caretaker government, the Supreme Court stopped it from any further action regarding new appointments, transfers and postings during its remaining tenure. The court refrained the interim government from appointing Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Khawaja Sadique Akbar as federal ombudsman. A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice

of Pakistan Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, issued the direction while hearing the petition filed by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's senior leader Khawaja Muhammad Asif against the transfers/postings and shuffling of high officials by the caretaker government. The court directed Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Irfan Qadir to furnish a written statement on behalf of the caretaker government over this petition. The chief justice warned the incoming PML-N government that the court would not allow any favoritism on governance issues, noting that good governance comes by maintaining merit and transparency. He said that upcoming government would have to work in a transparent manner and there should not be any personal liking and disliking on governance issues. The chief justice also made it clear that the court would interfere in any matter in which merit and transparency would be violated. The chief justice said that such practices had been a cause of contentions with the previous regime for the last five years; therefore the upcoming government should be careful by discouraging the practice of appointing cronies, favorites' and relatives. He said that on the one hand, the caretaker law minister was giving a statement that the new appointments and transfers were not their mandate but other hand; two notifications were issued in this regard from his own ministry.

Daily Times - May 23, 2013

### **New PM to Take Oath on June 5: Nizami: Power Transfer Process Likely To Begin On 1st**

Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso advised President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday to summon the National Assembly's session on June 1. Information Minister Arif Nizami said the National Assembly would meet on June 1 when the newly-elected members would take oath. On June 3, the speaker and deputy speaker will be elected and on June 5 the leader of the house. The oath-taking of the new cabinet would take place in the afternoon of June 5, the term of the caretakers would end. The commission was striving to address the issue of reserved seats for women and minorities because a stay order issued by the Balochistan High Court might affect the entire schedule, beginning with the swearing in of the members on June 1 and followed by election of the speaker and deputy speaker of the assembly and finally the prime minister. He said the notification was likely to be issued. The PML-N, having gained 145 seats in the house after as many as 19 independent members-elect joined it, is all set to get 30 reserved seats, exhausting the priority list submitted by it to the commission.

Dawn - May 28, 2013

## Provincial Assemblies

### **Punjab Cabinet Approves Ordinance for Women**

The provincial cabinet has unanimously approved the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Ordinance 2013, after some amendments under which a Punjab Commission, having at least 50 percent women representation, would be formulated and at least one female member would be taken from minorities. Similarly, leader of the house or his representative and leader of the opposition or his representative would be the members of the representative commission, while two women parliamentarians would also be its members. A meeting of the caretaker cabinet was held under the chairmanship of Punjab Chief Minister Najam Sethi. The meeting was attended by Provincial Ministers, Advisor for Taxation & Revenue, Chief Secretary Punjab, Advocate General Punjab, Secretaries of Law, Finance, Higher Education, Women Development, Information and officers of concerned departments. Addressing the cabinet

meeting, Najam Sethi said that establishment of Punjab Commission is a laudable step towards empowerment and welfare of women. He said commission would help solve problems being faced by women, besides taking immediate action over violence against women, and inhuman treatment meted out to them. He said more than 50 percent of the country's population consists of women, and national prosperity cannot be achieved without bringing women into the mainstream. Pakistani women are highly capable and are playing an effective role in the progress and prosperity of the nation. Women have played a significant role in national development, particularly in the fields of medicine, engineering, information technology, education, administration and other sectors. He formulated a 5-member committee under the chairmanship of Provincial Law Minister, which would review draft ordinance of Noor International University and submit its recommendations. He said that the Punjab government is providing all possible resources for the promotion of education, so that the country can achieve progress and prosperity

The Express Tribune - May 01, 2013

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### Provinces Need More Financial Autonomy

Finance, Planning and Development Minister Shakaib Ahmed Qureshi stated that the provinces must be empowered to collect tax on goods in order to improve their financial position. While talking to a delegation of World Bank at Chief Minister House, Qureshi urged the government to adopt an outcome-based approach in order to streamline the tax system. He further said that NFC and the 18th amendment are optimistic signs for the systematic strengthening of the provinces. Qureshi suggested that land leveraging and asset management would be the best approach to mobilize non-tax resources for sustainable development. The meeting was attended by the World Bank Mission, which discussed the issues related to Finance Department, Sindh Revenue Board (SRB), Excise and Taxation besides other topics of mutual interest like improvement of infrastructure. The Minister Excise and Taxation Shabbar Zaidi also attended the meeting. He said that the model of SRB has developed a documented record of sales tax potential in Sindh province. He said that provincial revenue collection is an important aspect to ensure sustainable development. The delegation of World Bank agreed with the views of Qureshi and stressed on resource mobilisation.

Daily Times - May 24, 2013

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## Judiciary

### Musharraf's Lawyer Renews Request for Larger Bench

A lawyer representing retired General Pervez Musharraf told the Supreme Court on Thursday that his client harbored suspicions that the head of the bench was biased and he might not get a fair hearing of petitions seeking treason charges against him. "My client apprehends an element of bias from the bench as long as it is headed by Justice Jawwad S. Khawaja who had already expressed his mind about the events of March 9, 2007 and November 3, 2007," argued Advocate Malik Qamar Afzal. "This is why he is requesting for withdrawing one of the members of the bench because of his recent experiences," he explained. The counsel said, that Gen Musharraf had gone to the Islamabad High Court for confirmation of his bail but came out with the charges of terrorism followed by his arrest by police. Similarly, he approached the Peshawar High Court against rejection of his nomination papers but he was barred from contesting elections for life. Advocate Afzal reiterated his client's request for the constitution of a larger bench to hear the

petitions and cited an interview given by Justice Khawaja to a private television channel after his resignation as a judge of the Lahore High Court on March 19, 2007. Justice Khawaja was disturbed when Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry was deposed by Gen Musharraf, the counsel recalled. The counsel highlighted quotes from the interview in which Justice Khawaja had said that if the chief justice of Pakistan could be deposed then what would be his fate as a judge of the high court. Ali Rehman, a member of his supporting staff, the lawyer said, had written a book after his retirement which dedicated about 90 pages to Justice Khawaja and explained his views and thoughts about the Nov 3 emergency. Justice Khawaja had explicitly expressed his views disapproving the removal of the chief justice and unease that finally led to his own resignation. Even the judge had said that it was wrong to take oath under the provisional constitution order, Advocate Afzal said. Referring to an additional note of Justice Khawaja in the celebrated July 31, 2009 judgment of declaring Nov 3 emergency unconstitutional, the counsel highlighted certain words like, “it was nothing but a hearty arrogance of Musharraf.” He argued that the imposition of emergency was not an act of the general alone, rather by the then federal government. Still the judge singled out Gen Musharraf in his additional note. The judge had resigned from the high court in honour of the chief justice when the latter had been deposed by Gen Musharraf, he recalled. At this Justice Khawaja observed that if the counsel kept on arguing on the element of bias as apprehended by his client then judges would be brought from Afghanistan because he would not find anyone from Pakistan. The council also argued that the bench should take every caution in deciding the petitions as the proceedings had become ‘prosecutorial in nature’ after the petitioners had sought initiation of treason cases against Gen Musharraf under Article 6 of the constitution and the High Treason Act of 1973 that could culminate in a death penalty.

Dawn - May 03, 2013

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### **Contradictory Arguments: SC Asks Musharraf to Clarify His Position in Writing**

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court hearing petitions seeking treason trial of Pervez Musharraf directed the ex-military ruler on Wednesday to submit his instructions in writing after his two lawyers put forth conflicting arguments. The bench, headed by Justice Jawwad S Khawaja, got surprised after they found the two lawyers Ahmed Raza Kasuri and Raja Muhammad Ibrahim Satti – at variance while representing Musharraf and contesting one and the same case. The bench, also comprising Justice Khilji Arif Hussain and Justice Ejaz Afzal Khan, however, did not give any weight to the request of advocate Sheikh Ahsanud Din, one of the petitioners against Musharraf that the ex-president should be summoned in the court and asked to present his arguments in person. Advocate Satti, adding to his earlier arguments, contended that he got instructions from Musharraf at 6pm on Tuesday and said the SC could not direct for the trial of his client or any other person under article 6 of the Constitution. On the other hand, Advocate Kasuri had argued that if the trial was initiated all the abettors and conspirators who helped Musharraf in proclaiming November 3, 2007 emergency should be charged with high treason and tried along with him. When the bench drew their attention towards the difference of arguments presented by the two lawyers, Kasuri said he was the leading lawyer for Musharraf and got the latest instructions from the ex-president. The confused bench started dictating the order despite the lawyers said they had nothing different in their arguments and that every one of the three lawyers of Musharraf appeared for a different petition.

The Express Tribune - May 09, 2013

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### **Former President, Retired Gen Pervez Musharraf**

Retired Gen Pervez Musharraf, who is being tried in a number of cases of serious nature and detained at his Chak Shahzad farmhouse sub-jail, will leave the country before the swearing-in of the new government, says PML-Z chief and MNA-elect Ijazul Haq. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Haq said his party would support the PML-N in formation of the new government at the centre. The PML-Z leader, who won the NA-191 Bahawalnagar seat, said he had taken the decision in national interest. Mr. Haq, who also contested from NA-190 but lost to PML-N's Tahir Bashir Cheema, accused his rival of poll rigging and said he would move the Election Commission of Pakistan. In reply to a question about Gen Musharraf's future, he said the former president would leave the country before the new government took charge in Islamabad.

Dawn - May 16, 2013

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### **Judges Detention Case: Complaint Withdrawn Against Musharraf**

The decision by Advocate Chaudhry Mohammad Aslam Ghumman came a day before the hearing of the case by the Islamabad Anti-Terrorism Court at Gen Musharraf's Chak Shahzad farmhouse which has been declared a sub-jail. The judges' detention case was registered by the Secretariat Police Station on Aug 11, 2009, on the complaint of Advocate Ghumman who had sought legal proceedings against the former military ruler for confining 60 judges of the superior courts for over five months at their homes and restraining them from administering justice. Advocate Ghumman said he had withdrawn the complaint in the larger national interest. "I think that the trial of Gen Musharraf in such a state of affairs is not in the national interest and, therefore, I have decided to withdraw my complaint," he said. "Before taking the decision to withdraw the petition I also consulted my friends and it was taken after due deliberation." Advocate Ghumman said he would neither appear before the court nor press for the prosecution of Gen Musharraf, adding that it was up to the court to decide the fate of the case against him. It may be mentioned that over the past couple of weeks at least three lawyers, including special prosecutor of Islamabad police Syed Mohammad Tayyab, have dissociated themselves from the case. The other two — Raja Rizwan Abbasi and Qamar Afzal — are reported to have received threats from unknown people. Advocate Gujjar was of the opinion that Mr Ghumman could not withdraw the complaint because the FIR also included sections of Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. Only the state could withdraw the case. According to legal expert Barrister Zafarullah Khan, an individual can dissociate himself from prosecution but cannot withdraw a case. Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui of the Islamabad High Court had dismissed the pre-arrest bail plea of Gen Musharraf on April 18 and observed that the act of detaining the judges of superior courts and forcefully restraining them from performing their lawful duty was an act of terrorism. He ordered police to book the former military ruler under section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Dawn - May 18, 2013

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### **ATC Extends Musharraf's Remand for 14 Days**

During the hearing on Saturday, the investigation officer in the case informed the ATC that police had appointed Malik Amir Nadeem as the new prosecutor in the case after his predecessor, Syed Muhammad Tayyab, disassociated himself from the case. Musharraf's counsel Advocate Ilyas Siddiqui pointed out that the main complainant, Advocate Chaudhry Aslam

Ghuman, had also disassociated himself from the case. However, he had not submitted a written statement before the court regarding his decision. Ghuman said that he has made the decision “in the interest of the country”. Nadeem requested the court to grant him extra time so he could prepare the case. The hearing of the former president’s bail plea was adjourned till May 22. Musharraf’s counsel had earlier submitted the bail application requesting bail for his client. He had argued that a terrorism charge inserted by the Islamabad High Court did not apply in the judges’ detention case. “The statements of the victims are essential, otherwise the challan remains incomplete,” said a police official. On April 20, the ATC had sent Musharraf on judicial remand for 14 days after Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui of the IHC had rejected his bail and ordered his arrest. Later, the Islamabad chief commissioner had declared Musharraf’s farm house a sub-jail.

**The Express Tribune - May 19, 2013**

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### **Musharraf Gets Bail in Benazir Case**

ATC Judge Chaudhry Habibur Rehman ordered release of the former army chief on bail on submission of Rs2 million surety bonds. But he will remain in his farmhouse till obtaining bail in cases pertaining to judges’ detention and Nawab Akbar Bugti’s murder. During the course of arguments, the special prosecutor of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) raised no objection to the bail application of Mr. Musharraf. Instead, he suggested a heavy surety amount. He said: “Gen Musharraf would escape from the country if the court releases him on bail but depositing a heavy amount as surety might prevent him from going abroad.” If he went abroad, he said, the surety amount might be of some use to the national exchequer. After the murder of Ms Bhutto on Dec 27, 2007 the Punjab government constituted a joint investigation team (JIT) which submitted a charge-sheet without nominating Gen Musharraf. On Aug 6, 2009 the investigation was transferred to the FIA and the following year its JIT implicated Gen Musharraf in the case. According to the JIT report, Gen Musharraf was upset by the speeches of Ms Bhutto against the imposition of emergency in November 2007. It said that the Musharraf government did not provide adequate security to the former prime minister despite her repeated requests. After the assassination of Ms Bhutto, Gen Musharraf ordered then director general of the National Crisis Management Cell to hold a press conference “with the motive to influence subsequent police investigation”, it said. The report mentioned an email sent by Ms Bhutto to US lobbyist Mark Siegel on October 26, 2007 in which she said that Gen Musharraf should be held responsible if she was killed. Before this, she had written a letter to Mr Musharraf, forewarning that then chief minister of Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, former director general of Inter Services Intelligence Hameed Gul and former chief of Intelligence Bureau Ejaz Shah had hatched a conspiracy to get her assassinated. Mr. Musharraf’s counsel Barrister Salman Safdar said his client had gone abroad after resigning as the president and the FIA had implicated him in the case during his stay abroad. He returned to the country on his own to prove his innocence. He said Mr. Musharraf had been implicated in the case merely on grounds of suspicion. Though Ms Bhutto had suspected that some people might get her killed, those people were never interrogated or made to face a trial. He said the case had been lingering on for over five years which proved that the prosecution was not interested in bringing it to an end. Transfer of investigation from one to another agency and submission of two charge-sheets indicated that the case was being used for political purpose and not for reaching the ends of justice, he argued.

**Dawn - May 21, 2013**

## HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

### Missing Persons: Status & Up-Date

#### Missing Persons Case: Bring the 7 Detained Men before Court

The Supreme Court directed officials to present seven men detained in Parachinar before the court on May 10. It also issued notices to Attorney General of Pakistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Advocate General and the lawyer representing Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Military Intelligence (MI). A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, took exception to a fresh application that alleged that families had lost contact with seven surviving missing persons namely Mazharul Haq, Shafiqur Rehman, Muhammad Shafiq, Dr Niaz Ahmed, Abdul Majid, Gulroze and Abdul Basit. It was in May 2010 that 11 men after being acquitted in four different terrorism cases from a trial court had allegedly gone missing from outside Adiala Jail. The bench also directed the authorities to submit relevant records of any trial proceedings of these persons at the next date of hearing. Advocate Tariq Asad, who was representing the families of missing persons, moved the application that stated that these men had been detained in Kohat Jail, from where they had been relocated to detention centers in Parachinar in Kurram Agency. The application stated that it was on May 2, 2013 that a person, who was later, identified as a tehsildar (a revenue administrative officer), came to the prisoners and informed them that two of them had been sentenced to five years and five others to 14 years in jail. Later, on May 4, the men were shifted to an undisclosed location, the application said. The lawyer informed the court that since the matter had been pending in the apex court since 2010, four men out of the 11 had died while in custody of the intelligence agencies, adding that the authorities had convicted these men and sentenced them to different jail terms without any trial. However, Advocate Raja Irshad, who represented the ISI and the MI, informed the SC that these men had been involved in different armed attacks on army's convoys in Fata and would be tried under army laws.

The Express Tribune - May 09, 2013

## HR Related Reports & Surverys

#### 84pc of Pakistani Muslims Want Sharia, Says PEW Survey

The latest US-based PEW Research Center survey, released 11 days before Pakistan goes for elections, shows that 84% of Pakistani Muslims favor Islamic sharia as their official law. While none of the leading political parties with the only exception of Imran Khan's PTI promises to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state, the 30th April Pew Research Center survey of Muslims around the globe finds that most adherents (including Pakistanis) of the world's second-largest religion are deeply committed to their faith and want its teachings to shape not only their personal lives but also their societies and politics. As against the recent hints of PPP, MQM and the ANP to make Pakistan a secular state, the PEW survey concludes, "Support for making Sharia the official law of the land tends to be higher in countries like Pakistan (84%) and Morocco (83%) where the constitution or basic laws favor Islam to other religions." According to the executive summary of the Pew survey: "In all but a handful of the 39 countries surveyed, a majority of Muslims say that Islam is the one true faith leading to eternal life in heaven and that belief in God is necessary to be a moral person. Many also think that their religious leaders should have at least some influence over political matters. And many express a desire for Sharia

– traditional Islamic law – to be recognized as the official law of their country.” The percentage of Muslims who say they want Sharia to be “the official law of the land” varies widely around the world, from fewer than one-in-10 in Azerbaijan (8%) to near unanimity in Afghanistan (99%). But solid majorities in most of the countries surveyed across the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia favor the enforcement of Sharia, including 71% of Muslims in Nigeria, 72% in Indonesia, 74% in Egypt and 89% in the Palestinian territories.

At the same time, the survey finds that even in many countries where there is strong backing for Sharia, most Muslims favor religious freedom for people of other faiths. In Pakistan, for example, three-quarters of Muslims say that non-Muslims are very free to practice their religion, and fully 96% of those who share this assessment say it is “a good thing.” Yet 84% of Pakistani Muslims favour enshrining Sharia as official law. These seemingly divergent views are possible partly because most supporters of Sharia in Pakistan – as in many other countries – think Islamic law should apply only to Muslims. Moreover, Muslims around the globe have differing understanding of what Sharia means in practice. The survey – which involved more than 38,000 face-to-face interviews in 80-plus languages with Muslims across Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa – shows that Muslims tend to be most comfortable with using Sharia in the domestic sphere, to settle family or property disputes. In most countries surveyed, there is considerably less support for severe punishments, such as cutting off the hands of thieves or executing people who convert from Islam to another faith. And even in the domestic sphere, Muslims differ widely on such questions as whether polygamy, divorce and family planning are morally acceptable and whether daughters should be able to receive the same inheritance as sons. In most countries surveyed, majorities of Muslim women as well as men agree that a wife is always obliged to obey her husband. Indeed, more than nine-in-ten Muslims in Iraq (92%), Morocco (92%), Tunisia (93%), Indonesia (93%), Afghanistan (94%) and Malaysia (96%) express this view.

At the same time, majorities in many countries surveyed say a woman should be able to decide for her whether to wear a veil. Overall, the survey finds that most Muslims see no inherent tension between being religiously devout and living in a modern society. Nor do they see any conflict between religion and science. Many favor democracy to authoritarian rule, believe that humans and other living things have evolved over time and say they personally enjoy Western movies, music and television – even though most think Western popular culture undermines public morality. The new survey also allows some comparisons with prior Pew Research Center surveys of Muslims in the United States. Like most Muslims worldwide, US Muslims generally express strong commitment to their faith and tend not to see an inherent conflict between being devout and living in a modern society. But American Muslims are much more likely than Muslims in other countries to have close friends who do not share their faith, and they are much more open to the idea that many religions – not only Islam – can lead to eternal life in heaven. At the same time, US Muslims are less inclined than their co-religionists around the globe to believe in evolution; on this subject, they are closer to US Christians. Few US Muslims voice support for suicide bombing or other forms of violence against civilians in the name of Islam; 81% say such acts are never justified, while fewer than one-in-10 say violence against civilians either is often justified (1%) or is sometimes justified (7%) to defend Islam. Around the world, most Muslims also reject suicide bombing and other attacks against civilians.

However, substantial minorities in several countries say such acts of violence are at least sometimes justified, including 26% of Muslims in Bangladesh, 29% in Egypt, 39% in Afghanistan and 40% in the Palestinian territories. These are among the key findings of a worldwide survey by the Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life. The survey was conducted in two waves. Fifteen sub-Saharan African countries with substantial Muslim

populations were surveyed in 2008-2009, and some of those results previously were analyzed in the Pew Research Center's 2010 report "Tolerance and Tension: Islam and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa." An additional 24 countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa were surveyed in 2011-2012; results regarding religious beliefs and practices were first published in the Pew Research Center's 2012 report "The World's Muslims: Unity and Diversity." The current report focuses on Muslims' social and political attitudes, and it incorporates findings from both waves of the survey. At least half of Muslims in most countries surveyed say they are concerned about religious extremist groups in their country, including two-thirds or more of Muslims in Egypt (67%), Tunisia (67%), Iraq (68%), Guinea Bissau (72%) and Indonesia (78%). On balance, more are worried about Islamic extremists than about Christian extremists. Muslims around the world overwhelmingly view certain behaviors – including prostitution, homosexuality, suicide, abortion, euthanasia and consumption of alcohol – as immoral. But attitudes toward polygamy, divorce and birth control are more varied. In most countries where a question about so-called "honor" killings was asked, majority of Muslims say such killings are never justified. Only in two countries – Afghanistan and Iraq – do majorities condone extra-judicial executions of women who allegedly have shamed their families by engaging in premarital sex or adultery.

Relatively few Muslims say that tensions between more religiously observant and less observant Muslims are a very big problem in their country. In most countries where the question was asked, Muslims also see little tension between members of Islam's two major sects, Sunnis and Shias – though a third or more of Muslims in Pakistan (34%) and Lebanon (38%) consider Sunni-Shia conflict to be a very big problem. Muslims in sub-Saharan Africa are more likely than Muslims surveyed in other regions to say they attend interfaith meetings and are knowledgeable about other faiths. But substantial percentages of Muslims in sub-Saharan Africa also perceive hostility between Muslims and Christians. In Guinea-Bissau, for example, 41% of Muslims say "most" or "many" Christians are hostile toward Muslims, and 49% say "most" or "many" Muslims are hostile toward Christians. In half of the countries where the question was asked, majorities of Muslims want religious leaders to have at least "some influence" in political matters, and sizable minorities in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa think religious leaders should have a lot of political influence. Support for making sharia the official law of the land tends to be higher in countries like Pakistan (84%) and Morocco (83%) where the constitution or basic laws favor Islam to other religions. In many countries, Muslims who pray several times a day are more likely to support making sharia official law than are Muslims who pray less frequently. In Russia, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and Tunisia, for example, Muslims who pray several times a day are at least 25 percentage points more supportive of enshrining sharia than are less observant Muslims. Generally, however, there is little difference in support for sharia by age, gender or education."

The News - May 02, 2013

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### Minority Report: Parties Emphasize Religious Pluralism

The election manifestos of most mainstream political parties call for a more inclusive society. However, those of some religious groups contain provisions which may be understood as discriminatory, to say the least. The Muttahida Deeni Muhaaz (MDM), an electoral alliance of five religious parties, states in its manifesto that the president, prime minister, chief justice and heads of other key offices in Pakistan should be male Sunni Muslim "Non-Muslims and apostates will be banned from public office jobs in Pakistan," stipulates the MDM manifesto. On the other hand, many political parties, including ones with Islamic leanings, hold that plurality and equal opportunities for people of all faiths is essential for Pakistan. PPP, The Pakistan People's Party

(PPP) says it will introduce laws to prevent forced conversions and also pledges to pay reparations to victims of religious violence, while also stepping up protection of places of worship. It also promises to add one more seat in Parliament for Islamabad's minorities and pledges to revive the National Commission on Minorities as a statutory body. Referring to Salmaan taseer and Shahbaz Bhatti as symbols of the party's sacrifices for the cause of inclusiveness, it also says it will ask parliament to review constitutional clauses that discriminate on the basis of religion.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), promises provision of all constitutional rights and protection to minority communities. They say they will take special care of protecting places of worship and will compensate minorities for any discriminatory or unjust acts against them. The PML-N also pledges to legislate against forced marriage and says that the National Day for Minorities will be celebrated to promote integration, brotherhood and harmony amongst all. More practically, it also plans to double development funds earmarked for minorities and says will introduce quotas for minorities in educational institutes and public sector jobs. The Christian community will be permitted to run its own schools and colleges. The PML-N also emphasized that it will expedite the passage of the Hindu Marriage Bill. Jamiat-e-Ullemah-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), in its short 12-page manifesto was very brief on this issue. However, it said that all non-Muslims in the country will enjoy religious freedom, civil rights and impartial opportunity equal access to justice. PTI Saying that it wants to implement Jinnah's vision of the role of minorities, the PTI makes the claim that its entire manifesto deals with protection against discrimination of all kinds. Due representation in all state institutions, access to equal economic opportunities and zero tolerance for any abuse or violence against any minority group were the PTI's key promises to minorities. They say hate speech and inflammatory literature will be banned. Regarding the Ahmadi community, the PTI chief, in a statement, made clear that the 1973 provisions would not be repealed.

The ANP will continue efforts to repeal amendments made to the 1973 Constitution which relegate religious minorities to a secondary status, the party manifesto said. Incitement to violence against citizens of other ethnicities, faith and religions will be prohibited. The ANP manifesto stipulated that fusing religion with politics has strengthened and reinforced violent conflicts. "ANP will continue its struggle for a secular, democratic and pluralistic Pakistan with equal rights and opportunities for all citizens," it added. The MQM want to abolish the very use of the term 'minorities' and believes their representatives should be elected directly. The MQM also aims to repeal all existing discriminatory laws against women and non-Muslims, along with providing full freedom of worship, employment and education. The Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) also claims to follow Jinnah's vision as far as minorities are concerned. The Q-League also shares some of the N-League's manifesto ideas. Besides providing all constitutional rights to minorities, they say all steps will be taken to stop misuse of the blasphemy law and all those found guilty of false accusations shall be punished. PML-Q also promised that it would take steps to stop forced conversions lawfully, ban inflammatory literature, and abolish biased content from school syllabi. A Religious Minorities Bill will be introduced, which will advocate a 5 percent quota for minorities in government jobs.

**The Express Tribune - May 04, 2013**

## **2,670 People Killed In Pakistan in Four Months**

There was an unusual escalation in attacks on political parties' offices and their candidates in April in the country, particularly in Karachi, where targeted killings have become an order of the day for the past two years. The first four months of the year witnessed unprecedented surge in

violence across the country, averaging over 600 casualties every month, says a report titled “Pakistan Conflict Tracker” released by a think-tank, the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS). Besides attacks on political parties’ offices and candidates, the ethno-political violence in Karachi, religio-political terrorism in Fata and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and nationalist-separatist violence in Balochistan continued to surge in April. The deadly wave of targeted killing in Sindh took over 701 lives. The data collected through open sources suggested that some 2,674 people lost their lives in 1,108 incidents of violence across the country from January to April. The violent clashes also left 2,386 people injured during the period.

A closer look at the casualty figures shows that civilians remained the major target of violence with about 1,542 deaths. Moreover, the data suggested that the militants fighting against the state emerged as the second major target i.e. 856 casualties. Clashes with militants, targeted killings or ambushes of military convoys also left 276 security forces’ personnel dead, mostly recorded in insurgency infested areas of Fata, Karachi and Balochistan. Furthermore, during the four months, 12 CIA operated drone strikes were reported in different areas of North Waziristan Agency leaving about 71 suspected militants dead. Between March 2012 and February 2013, as many as 51 drone attacks killed over 351 suspected militants. Meanwhile, continuing their sabotage campaign against state infrastructure, militants blew up 39 state-run and private schools in different parts of Fata, Balochistan and KP during the four months. As a whole, targeted killing topped as the major cause of deaths as 45 per cent of all the violent incidents were of targeted killing in nature. Karachi witnessed the major loss of lives as a result of the targeted killing.

Meanwhile, bomb blasts were the second major cause of deaths. As a result of which, 405 persons perished, including 343 civilians, seven militants and 55 security forces personnel in different parts of the country. The third major cause of the violence was military operations. In total, 356 persons, including 339 militants and 11 security personnel, were killed in this form of attacks. From January to April, 241 bodies were also recovered from different parts of Pakistan, most of them in Karachi, Peshawar, Fata and Balochistan. Likewise, 25 suicide attacks left 168 civilians dead. The data suggested that southern Sindh witnessed major loss of lives during the last four months. After Sindh, KP turned out to be the second major hub of violence with the death toll of 418 and Balochistan followed where national separatist and sectarian violence left almost 403 people dead. The violence across Fata subsided significantly from January. Moreover, the sporadic waves of sectarian violence and religio-political violence continued to pile up misery across Pakistan with Shia Muslims based in Quetta and Karachi becoming the frequent targets of sectarian terrorists.

A precise look into the trends and territory of violence across the country underscores that the law and order situation across Pakistan continues to deteriorate. In the first two months, ethno-political and sectarian violence in Karachi and Quetta led to the decimation of majority of the dead. The security situation in Balochistan continued to reel under the specter of multiple threats i.e. nationalist-separatist, sectarian, criminal, etc. Latest trends show a spate of violence in targeting the election campaign which has given rise to the religio-political violence in KP, Balochistan and Sindh.

Dawn - May 05, 2013

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### **The Neglected Social Sector**

Sixty-six years since the independence of Pakistan, political parties are still coming up with tall claims that they will change the fate of common man. Though these parties could not complete their tenure on almost all occasions except for one, it is equally true that after coming to power

they did very little for the betterment of people as well as the whole country. It is observed that whenever the economy performed well in the past, it did not reflect any improvement in the social sector because of less attention of economic managers to this area. Huge allocation for debt servicing and defense expenditure, other non-development spending and corruption left little for the social sector. Similarly, untargeted subsidies and cash grants did have little impact on developing the all-important social sector. It seems that the people managing the economy just performed the assigned task to prepare the ground for obtaining foreign loans at the cost of social sector. In the past, spending on major heads of the social sector like education and health barely touched 2% of gross domestic product. According to the Human Development Index 2013, Pakistan's HDI ranking has dropped to 146th position in 2013. When viewed in the context of the region, Pakistan stands at the lowest rank as according to the index the country spent 0.8% of GDP on health and 1.8% on education. In comparison, Bangladesh and India both spent 1.2% on health and 2.2% and 3.1% respectively on education. The low spending on education and health by Pakistan is not only a cause of concern, but most depressing is the fact that a major slice of this slender amount goes down the drain because of corruption and inefficiency. Another hurdle that stands in the way of social sector development is inequality in income and wealth between the rich and poor, and the gap is still widening. According to the Human Development Index 2013, income inequality in Pakistan increased from 0.27 to 0.29 (Gini-coefficient) from 2000 to 2010.

**The Express Tribune - May 13, 2013**

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## GENDER WATCH

### Violence against Women

#### **Silencing the War against Rape**

For more than two decades, War against Rape (WAR) provided healing, counseling and medico-legal help to rape survivors, but now WAR finds itself in a position where it may be forced to quit the field forever, and all because of a lack of funds. War against Rape's (WAR) battle against sexual violence is presently in serious jeopardy. If donors don't step forward, the organization – which since 1989 has been fighting to provide justice to rape survivors – will have to discontinue its services. WAR's programme coordinator, Sanaa Rasheed, said, "There have been no calls for new proposals from donors. In fact foreign donors have shifted their priorities from women's issues to labour issues." The organization, which provided free legal aid to rape survivors, now only takes up critical cases and is wrapping up previous ones too. Rasheed says if WAR was roughly taking up 30 per cent of rape cases in the country before funding cuts, it is now only taking up only five per cent. "It's sad we have to let go of cases – especially when the rape of minor children is on the rise."

**The Express Tribune - May 14, 2013**

#### **Couple Killed In The Name Of Honor**

A newlywed couple was killed in the name of honor, while a cop was shot in a house with his accomplice woman on Tuesday. In what seems like an honor killing, a young couple identified as A\*, 21 and S\*, 16, were shot dead inside their house situated in Kunwari Colony within the limits of Pirabad police station. The alleged assailant, victim brother barged into the house, while the rest of the family was present and shot the couple dead. The bodies of victims were shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities. Police said they had been married six months ago without their parents' consent. He further said that families of both the victims were unhappy but had agreed halfheartedly. Victim's brother has filed a complaint. Separately, sub-inspector Malik Ejaz, 45, and a woman Anum Nausheen, 30, were found dead from a flat in Labour Square. SITE-B police station officials said that unidentified armed men entered the flat, killed the victims and set their bodies on fire. Police said that the deceased woman was a dancer by profession. SP Ali Asif said that the sub-inspector was posted at the security department. He also informed that some neighbours had seen one of the suspects coming out of the apartment, who could even be a relative of the deceased woman. A case has been registered, while further investigation is underway.

**Daily Times - May 22, 2013**

### Achievements by Women

#### **Samina Baig: First Pakistani Woman to Scale Mount Everest**

Mountaineer Samina Baig has become the first Pakistani woman to scale Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain with a peak at 8,848 meters. Baig completed the climb to the summit at around 7:30am local time with her brother Mirza Ali, who becomes the third and youngest Pakistani male to scale the mountain. Nepal Mountaineering Department official Tilak Padney

said that 35 foreigners accompanied by 29 Nepalese Sherpa guides reached the peak after climbing all night from the highest camp on South Col — the pass between Everest and a neighboring mountain. Ali (29) and Baig (21) are natives of Shimshal village in Hunza valley, Pakistan. Ali has been climbing since age 15, and he was Baig’s mentor, guide and support. On his personal blog, Ali stated that this climb was the “First Pakistani Gender Equality Mt Everest Expedition”. “Once at base camp, we will begin our acclimatization trips. This involves climbing to Camp 1, staying the night, then returning to base camp to rest, then climbing to Camp 1 and staying the night and climbing on to Camp 2 and staying the night, before returning to base camp and so on up to Camp 3. Once our acclimatization trips have finished, and assuming we are in good health and super fit physically and mentally, we’ll be ready to try for the summit, which should be mid May. We will wait for a good weather forecast or ‘window’ for the possible summit attempt.”

**The Express Tribune - May 20, 2013**

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## SECTARIAN CRISES & CONFLICT WATCH

### Conflict & Sectarian Crisis - Security Briefs

#### Security Briefs of the Month of May

- May 02, 2013** Militants fire rockets at JUI-F rally; Suicide bomber attacks NPP candidate; Militants open fire on ANP rally; Attackers grenade electoral office; Article announces unprecedented violence leading up to elections; Pakistani-Afghan border remains closed after police confrontation; Pakistan announces increased trade with Sri Lanka; PAF jets bomb Orakzai militants; Kayani expresses army's displeasure with Musharraf case; Taliban leadership in tiff over absent Omar; Militants grenade factory; Balochistan forces begin operation against militants; Three die in Lahore violence; Police defuse bomb in Peshawar.
- May 03, 2013** One dead and two wounded in Afghanistan-Pakistan border skirmish; NCMC director blames Afghanistan-based militants for inciting election violence; Two schools-cum-polling stations blown up; Plans for election security unveiled; U.S. delegation lauds Pakistani anti-terrorism efforts; Eight militants killed in Orakzai; Four militants killed, five wounded in Tirah valley; Suspected suicide bomber arrested in Shahdaddkot; Imran Khan says Taliban not responsible for Bhutto's death, promises an end to "military operation" in Balochistan; JUI-F chief is against using force to counter terrorism; Musharraf questioned in connection with Bugti death; ECP Commissioner expresses concerns over free elections in current security climate; Four wounded in election violence in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa; Indian prisoner dies in Pakistani hospital, India calls for justice; Two bomb plots foiled; Four injured in Karachi rickshaw explosion; Torkham border crossing reopened.
- May 04, 2013** Prosecutor in charge of Bhutto assassination case assassinated; Pakistani prisoner attacked in Indian jail; ANP candidate and son shot dead; Bilawal Bhutto Zardari leaves country until after elections; MQM office targeted in blast; TTP warns people not to vote; Musharraf's APML party to boycott elections; Demonstrations marking bin Laden's death held; India thanks Pakistan for cooperation after Singh's death; India asks for probe into LeT connections to Singh's death; Sharif's prioritizes countering extremism; Five dead in attack on checkpoint in South Waziristan; PPP Secretary General is open to PTI alliance; Karzai says he will not allow foreign checkpoints in Afghan territory; Obama names James Dobbins special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan; Khassadar force member and family members killed; Body of Baloch activist found in Karachi; Arrests made in anti-polio workers' attack case; Four killed in Karachi.
- May 07, 2013** Nawaz Sharif discusses openness to Taliban negotiations and other plans for after election; Imran Khan voices opposition to drones and pawns of US; Renewed fighting on Afghanistan-Pakistan border; Karzai suggests Taliban focus on Pakistan; Pakistani Ambassador to Afghanistan says that Pakistan is not seeking "strategic depth"; 25 killed in attack on JUI-F rally; Risk of

campaigning for targeted parties; Extremist groups field candidates in election; Fake ballots seized and investigated; NAB to have its own police force; PML-N fields convicted murderer as candidate; Maulana Fazlur Rehman declares voting for PTI haram; Musharraf's house arrest extended by two weeks; 23 militants and two soldiers killed in Tirah; Eight militants killed in Orakzai; Punjab; IED kills two soldiers in North Waziristan; Firefight in Quetta kills two Frontier Corps personnel and 13 criminals; Two bomb disposal personnel killed by IED; Three killed and 40 wounded in Karachi from blasts targeting MQM; Multiple attacks on political parties across country; Four suspected militants arrested in Karachi; Four injured in IED attack on PTI; PPP's election office bombed, injuring one; Four polling stations in Balochistan destroyed by IEDs; Sarabjit Singh was Research and Analysis Wing spy; First polio case in a year reported in North Waziristan.

**May 08, 2013** Twenty killed in attack on JUI-F candidate at rally; Imran Khan injured after falling off the stage at a rally; Eleven killed at JUI-F rally in Hangu; Six killed by roadside bomb at PPP rally; 2,674 dead in Pakistani violence since January 2013; Sindh province facing serious terrorist threats on election day; Protests filed by Afghanistan and Pakistan against each other after border skirmishes; New extremist magazine asks for help in combating drones; Militants distribute anti-voting leaflets; Karachi head of LeJ arrested; PPP Senator claims to have proof of money laundering by Sharif brothers; Indian foreign minister: Singh is setback in Indo-Pakistani relations; Pakistan issues travel advisory against India; Hand grenade targeting ANP candidate injures one; Two injured in attack on National Party chief; Militants target house of PML-N candidate with a bomb; PML-N candidate reportedly extremist and criminal; Supreme Court says no excuse for military overtaking civilian powers; U.S. Senator calls for ending aid to Pakistan over Dr. Afridi case; Pro-government elder shot by militants; Security forces arrest six; Rail track blown up in Quetta.

**May 09, 2013** Nawaz Sharif intends to improve ties with India; Imran Khan injured after fall at rally but expected to recover completely; New poll shows PTI and PML-N very close; 18 killed in Northwestern Pakistan election-related bomb blasts; Two killed in blast targeting ANP; Karachi officer requests reinforcements for Election Day; Kayani urges cooperation for security on Election Day; Gunmen open fire on PTI target; Four injured in attack on PML-N candidate; Three killed in suicide attack on police station; Two killed by IED in Hangu; Militants release 13 hostages; Bomb targeting NATO convoy defused; negotiations with Taliban "necessary" says senior politician; ECP: All ballots have been printed, many distributed; 6,000 Frontier Corps to be stationed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Two power lines blown up, 17 districts in Balochistan without power; Pakistan rejects claims that Pakistani soldiers crossed into Afghanistan; Musharraf's trial temporarily adjourned; Pakistani U.N. peacekeeper killed in Congo.

**May 10, 2013** Former prime minister's son abducted; Imran Khan to address final rally via video link; Taliban leader's letter detailing plans for election attacks obtained by press; Afghan border police seek improves weaponry in fight against Pakistan; ANP withdrawing Sindh candidates; Peshawar High Court orders compensation of drone victims; Zardari approves absentee voting; IMF bailout

for Pakistan likely; Copper company drops mining plans, seeks compensation; political violence continues across country; Pamphlets in North Waziristan warn women not to vote; Army finalizes security plans for Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, tribal areas; 96,000 security personnel deployed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and tribal regions; Zardari complains to about security at rallies; Pakistani prisoner dies in Indian custody; Two TTP-affiliated militants arrested; Three police injured in blast in Dera Ismail Khan; Handout from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police reports on anti-militant crackdown; Three killed in gun battle between militants and security forces; Five Levies personnel kidnapped in Balochistan; Four killed in blast targeting police station; 19 injured in Hangu Bazaar blast.

**May 11, 2013** Imran Khan gives his last speech from his hospital bed; Report: coalition government likely given close polling between PML-N and PTI; PPP chairman addresses last rally via video link; Mainstream parties agreeing to block women from voting in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Two MQM candidates withdraw their candidacies in favor of the PTI; Baloch politicians will be running after boycotting last elections; Baloch National Front calls for strike; Caretaker prime minister issued a contempt notice; Internal TTP letter reveals plans for Election Day violence; Five killed in Miran Shah bombs; Security personnel killed during attack on convoy carrying election papers; IED targeting PPP injures five people in Quetta; Militants blow up Balochistan polling stations; Five injured in Balochistan bomb attack on independent candidate; Blast at JUI-F rally kills one; President Zardari condemns Gilani kidnapping; Army will deploy troops at most sensitive polling stations; Five killed in attack on police van; Militant attack on check post kills three.

**May 14, 2013** Pakistan votes in historic polls; Sharif's victory speech names key targets for improvement; PML-N likely will not need to form coalition government with rivals PTI or PPP; PTI to become main opposition party and lead Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Nawaz Sharif discusses his priorities, including international ties and economic issues; Sharif names Ishaq Dar as next finance minister; Allegations of foul play in Karachi and Lahore; Voting to be re-run in parts of Karachi; Turnout estimated at 60 percent; PPP strong performance only in Sindh; 29 people killed in Election Day violence; Blasts targeting ANP in Karachi kill eleven; Six killed in suicide attack in Balochistan; Polling in FATA peaceful; EU observers: 64 killed on Election Day; Obama congratulates Pakistan on free election; Reporter Declan Walsh expelled from Pakistan; Indian PM congratulates Sharif and hopes for better relations; Cautious optimism in India over Sharif's win; Karzai congratulates Sharif and hopes for peace and brotherhood; Pakistani stock exchange surges in response to Sharif's victory.

**May 15, 2013** Many parties stage protests and sit-ins across the country because of alleged election rigging; PTI has first right to a coalition government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Sharif sets goals for first 100 days; Observers pronounce election free and fair; Independents join PML-N in national assembly; Coalitions being worked out in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Punjab governor resigns from politics; Zardari calls to congratulate Sharif; MQM candidate demands do-over of election in all of Karachi; NAB summons Ashraf in RPP case, who fails to appear; Ex-PM Gilani takes responsibility for the PPP's

defeat; Written agreement barring women from voting surfaces; Musharraf's judicial remand extended; Multiple dead in violent incidents; Security clampdown in Karachi; PML-N will allow Zardari to finish term; Ambassador Sherry Rehman resigns; Death toll from Quetta attack rises to eight; Economists outline steps for new government; Pakistan sends \$500 million of exports to India; Remittances to Pakistan total \$11.5 billion, trade deficit falls; Sharif reiterates high hopes for cooperation with India; PM Singh turns down invitation to Sharif's oath-taking ceremony; U.S. Ambassador visits Sharif; Afghan Taliban call border skirmishes a conspiracy; Afghan official says Pakistan leadership change represents an opportunity; David Cameron calls Sharif to congratulate him.

**May 16, 2013** Nawaz Sharif visits Imran Khan in hospital to make peace; Coalition agreed open for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government; Independent legislators join PML-N in national and Punjab assemblies; PTI claims evidence of rigging, holds sit-in against vote rigging in Attock; Seven arrested in connection with ballot rigging; Thousands displaced from Kurram; Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan claims responsibility for Quetta suicide attack; Seven shot dead in Karachi; MQM holds protest against alleged vote rigging in Karachi; Musharraf cannot be tried under Anti Terrorism Act; Kayani calls Imran Khan to inquire after health; PPP to reach out to allies; Top U.S. AfPak official to leave Pentagon; U.S. officials reach out to Sharif; British police investigate Hussain's comments.

**May 17, 2013** PML-N has 124 seats, PPP has 31, PTI has 27 in final count; ECP refuses to recount votes in NA-122 or re-poll all of NA-250; Imran Khan expected to leave hospital in two weeks; Votes will be re-counter or re-run for eight national assembly seats; Sharif says corruption will not be tolerated; Kayani wants parliament to serve the people and says army will support further re-elections; ANP to sit in opposition and condemns violence that hindered his party's activities; PML-N invited JUI-F to join coalition; Ashraf appeared before NAB for rental power projects case; Fifteen killed in two mosque bombs; NATO truck driver killed; Head of kidnapping ring arrested; Peace body head killed; Market explosions kill four in North Waziristan; Former JI Nazim killed; Five security personnel killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; 100,000 tons of wheat to be exported to Iran in payment for electricity; Pakistan to release 51 Indian fishermen.

**May 20, 2013** Kayani and Sharif in unprecedented meeting; Imran Khan blames MQM for PTI leader's murder, MQM holds protests; Re-polling held peacefully in Karachi and won by PTI; Bail granted to Musharraf and judges' detention case dropped; Sharif calls for Taliban peace talks; Sharif expected to unveil plan for dealing with power cuts; PPP leader alleges rigging by Frontier Corps; Zardari rejects allegations of appointing questionable government officers; Asad Qaiser named speaker of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly; Ongoing talks regarding JUI-F/PML-N coalition; Nawaz says foreign policy agenda to focus on security and economy; Independent members of Parliament from FATA rejects offers of coalition; Soldier killed in attack on polio vaccination team; Several people killed in violence across country; IDP representatives call for peace in Orakzai; Gunmen fire on empty NATO trucks; Body of Hafiz Saeed's bodyguard found; Violence against PTI in Hyderabad; Obama to address

legality of drones on Thursday; U.S. lauds Pakistani attempts to make fertilizer less dangerous; Sherry Rehman denounces drone strikes in farewell speech; Karzai to visit India, plans to ask for support against Pakistan; Britain admits to funding polls on drone strikes; British High Commissioner meets with Nawaz Sharif; Pakistan to adopt Chinese GPS satellite system.

- May 21, 2013** Musharraf granted bail in Benazir murder case; PTI protests against MQM; MQM protests PTI accusations; Nawaz Sharif indicates willingness to talk to Taliban; PTI, JUI-S pledge to work together for “peace;” Nawaz working on plan to address energy crisis, includes electricity import from India; Imran Khan to be released from hospital; Zardari invites Sharif to dinner for Chinese PM; Kayani calls for international counter-IED conference; Former PM Ashraf apologizes for contempt of court; PML-N not likely to ask MQM to join government; Obama plans to turn over more drone operations from CIA to DOD; Political violence in Karachi and Mardan; Afghan official expects spike in violence due to closure of radical madrassas in Pakistan; Militants torch houses of militia tribesmen in Khyber.
- May 22, 2013** Chinese Premier arrives in Pakistan for two-day visit, praises Pakistan in interview; NATO equipment withdrawal through Pakistan begins; Imran Khan released from hospital; PTI protests rigging, ECP, MQM; MQM leader disbands Karachi Organizing Committee; Supreme Court orders revision of case against MQM; Roadside bomb in Karachi detonated; Balochistan advocate general freed by kidnappers; Five people arrested for stealing parts from NATO vehicles; Two paramilitary soldiers killed by IED in South Waziristan; Prayer leader shot inside mosque; India and Afghanistan discuss deepening India's help in Afghanistan's reconstruction; Musharraf released for Bhutto murder case, no bail for judges' detention case; PTI came in second in popular vote; Incoming government will continue BISP, renamed as PISP; ANP claims defeat is due to foreign elements; Drone strikes fallen since 2010, costs becoming clear; British survey shows 63 percent believe drone strikes never justified; Drones report says strikes have minimal impact on recruitment A quarter of proposed development spending to come from foreign loans; Ahmadis persecuted by extremists and government.
- May 23, 2013** TTP spokesman says TTP welcomes talks with Sharif; Thirteen police officers killed in bomb attack in Balochistan; Five people killed in Balochistan, including four women; Sharif's government likely to get \$15 billion Saudi bailout; PTI will support PML-N's peace efforts; Sharif announces nomination of brother Shahbaz as chief minister of Punjab; MQM Coordination Committee disbanded; Musharraf denied bail in judges detention case; PPP formally invites MQM to coalition; PML-N and JUI-F “inches away” from coalition deal; Sharif pressed to stop drone strikes; British minister confirms “unprecedented” complaints about Hussain; Chinese Premier meets with Kayani; Obama gives speech on drones, plans to limit targets and increase oversight; U.S. admits to killing four citizens with drones; Pentagon needs for additional funding for Pakistan transportation costs; American killed in drone strike had been arrested by Pakistani authorities; Kayani says army has no interest in used American weapons; India to support Afghan stability, considers Afghan “wish list” of weapons; Two security personnel killed in Kurram operation; LeT commander killed in Indian Kashmir; Two Levies men

injured in Bajaur check post attack; several die in violence in northwest Pakistan.

**May 24, 2013** Pakistan seeking loan from Saudi Arabia; PML-N leader says Pakistan may wait to go for IMF loan; Kayani tells Sharif no deal with U.S. on drone strikes; Details of Obama's counterterrorism speech and reactions; Kurram clash kills 20 militants and four troops; TTP says it is too early to respond to negotiation offers from PML-N; Sharif meets U.S., Indian ambassadors; PTI says it will cooperate fully with PML-N to counter militancy; Petition submitted by PTI for prosecuting Altaf Hussain for treason; Special court to be convened to hear Musharraf treason case; MQM leader threatens to leave party; MQM reshuffling in wake of poor election showing; Gilani and Ashraf summoned to National Accountability Bureau; Four Indian soldiers killed by rebels in Kashmir; Suicide attack on leader of Afghan religious group kills three; NATO driver killed in attack on convoy; Six people killed in Karachi; Hand grenade attack on school wounds four; CD shop owner killed by hand grenade; Protests by Kutchhi community in Karachi kill one; Lyari gang warfare injures four; Three militants killed in air strikes; Two British citizens arrested for joking about blowing up plane; Forty five Indian fishermen released from prison; Zardari and Sharif meet, agree to cooperate; Li Keqiang wraps up Pakistan visit.

**May 31, 2013** TTP confirms Wali-ur-Rehman's death, White House declines to confirm; Militant assault in Orakzai kills 23; Three bombs detonate in Bannu; IED kills anti-Taliban militia member; Pakistani military operations in Kurram and Khyber agencies continue; Gang apprehended stealing from NATO containers; Indian PM optimistic in talks with incoming PM Nawaz Sharif; Pervez Khattak elected chief minister in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa; Imran Khan urges crack down on drones; JUI-S chief criticizes drones; Musharraf to remain in Pakistan; Ambassador Dobbins visits Pakistan.

**Compiled from different dialies**

## Reports

### **Polls Violence: A Comparison (2002 - Till Present)**

Looking at the chronology of terrorism in Pakistan since February 2013, one can safely assume that whether the upcoming May 11 polls are held wholly or partially, they are likely to be more dangerous than the previous two ballot exercises of October 10, 2002 and February 18, 2008. Before we glance through the terrorism timeline in 2002 and 2008, it is pertinent to note that violence has already marred the campaign for the May 11 polling stint, as more than 50 people have already been killed in blasts and suicide attacks since April 11 this year. The October 10, 2002 ballot exercise was held in absolute calmness as hardly a couple of violent incidents were recorded in the two-month period before the polls under General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf. Just to recap, on August 9, 2002, three Christian nurses and an attacker were killed in a terrorist attack on a church in the city of Taxila in Punjab. On September 25, 2002, a few gunmen had stormed the offices of a Christian welfare organization in Karachi, tying up seven office workers to their chairs before shooting each in the head from a close range. And on October 16, just six

days after the 2002 elections, which had seen General Musharraf's PML-Q coming into power, at least eight people were injured in a series of parcel bomb explosions in Karachi — something that was never too scary by the standards of terrorism in Pakistan since 9/11. The 2002 pre or post-poll terrorism chronology shows that no election-related bloodshed was witnessed anywhere in the country.

On October 18, 2007 or the day when Benazir Bhutto had returned after eight years of self-imposed exile, the former premier was greeted with a deadly suicide attack soon after her convoy had hit the Karsaz area of Karachi. Around 140 people were killed and over 450 others injured in this incident, which is widely acknowledged to be one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in Pakistan. Benazir had survived this attack though. On October 20, at least eight people were killed and 28 injured when a powerful bomb planted in a pick-up vehicle had exploded in Dera Bugti, Balochistan. On October 25, around 20 people, including 18 troops, had died in a suicide attack aimed at a vehicle carrying Frontier Constabulary personnel in Swat. On October 30, a suicide bomber had struck a police checkpoint in the high security zone of Rawalpindi, less than a kilometer from the then President General Pervez Musharraf's camp office. Seven people were killed in this attack. The blast had destroyed the check post of the then Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Tariq Majid's official residence. On November 1, 2007, a suicide bomber had rammed his motorcycle into a Pakistan Air Force bus near Sargodha, killing 10 people, including seven officers stationed at the Musharraf Airbase. On November 9, 2007, a suicide bomber had killed at least three people at the Peshawar residence of the then Federal Political Affairs Minister Amir Muqam.

The minister had escaped scratch-less. Between November 17 and 19, 2007, nearly 100 people were killed during the three days of intense fighting between the Sunni (Deobandi) and Shia sects in Parachinar city. By the fourth day, the Army had gained control of the area and a ceasefire was maintained in the area. On November 24, over 30 people were killed in two suicide attacks in Rawalpindi. In the first incident, a suicide bomber rammed his car into a bus parked in front of Ojhri Camp on Murree Road. This vehicle was carrying Inter-Services Intelligence officials to work. Some 28 officials and a bystander were killed. The second attack had occurred when a suicide bomber had attempted to enter the Army General Headquarters. Upon being asked for identification at the check post, the bomber blew him up, killing a security official and a bystander with him. On December 9, 2007, before Benazir's assassination, at least 10 people (including three policemen and seven civilians) had perished in a car bombing in Swat District. On the morning of December 10, a suicide bomber had struck a Pakistan Air Force employees' bus near the Minhas Airbase at Kamra. The bus was carrying school-going children. Seven kids aboard the vehicle had sustained injuries in this attack. On December 13, two suicide bombings near an Army check post in Quetta had killed seven people, including three military personnel.

On December 15, a suicide attacker had rammed his explosives-laden bicycle into a military check post in the city of Nowshera, killing five people. This was the first-ever suicide attack in Nowshera by the way. On December 17, some 12 security personnel were killed in a suicide attack in Kohat. The victims were members of Pakistan Army's local football team. On December 21, a suicide bomber had targeted former Interior Minister Aftab Ahmad Sherpao on the day of Eid-ul-Azha in Charsadda District. Nearly 60 people were killed resultantly. Though Sherpao had escaped unhurt, his younger son Mustafa Sherpao was injured. On December 23, at least seven people were killed after a suicide bomber had targeted an Army convoy near Mingora (Swat). On December 27, 2007, former two-time Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in a shooting and suicide bombing incident in Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh. Over two dozen people were also killed at the site, which was already notorious as a public-gathering venue, as another former Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan was also shot dead at this park in

October 1951. On December 28, a day after Benazir's mysterious murder, some three dozen people had lost their lives in ensuing violence all over Pakistan. Public and private properties worth billions of rupees were gutted by angry protestors and in a bid to quell the violence; the Sindh Rangers were finally given orders to shoot-at-sight.

It was also on December 28, 2007 that a roadside bomb had killed nine people in Swat, including former PML-Q Minister Asfandyar Amirzaib, who happened to be the grandson of the Wali-e-Swat. On January 10, 2008, more than 24 people were killed in a suicide attack outside the Lahore High Court before the scheduled lawyer's protest against the government. Cops posted outside the court were deliberately targeted by the assassin. This attack was first of its kind in Lahore since the start of War on Terrorism. On January 14, at least 10 people were killed when a bomb had exploded in Karachi's Quaidabad area. On January 17, another 12 people were killed when a suicide bomber had blown himself up at the crowded Mirza Qasim Baig Imambargah in Peshawar. On February 7, an ANP leader, Fazal-ur-Rehman Atakhail, was assassinated in Karachi. On February 14, not fewer than 10 people were killed when a suicide bomber had crashed his bike into an armed forces bus near the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. The vehicle was carrying students and officials of Army Medical College. On February 9, 2008, more than 25 people had lost lives after a powerful explosion had hit an Awami National Party election rally in Charsadda city. On February 11, a suicide attack on an ANP public meeting in Miranshah (North Waziristan) had left at least eight people dead, including a candidate for the National Assembly.

On February 16, a suicide bomber had rammed his explosives-laden vehicle on the election meeting of Pakistan People's Party in Khurram Agency. This particular attack in the tribal belt had left at least 47 people dead. And on February 18, more than two dozen people were killed and nearly 200 were injured in election-related violence across the country. The death toll included those who had perished on the eve of the polls. And now coming to the run-up for the 2013 polls, on February 1, 2013, a suicide blast had killed around 20 people and had wounded 45 outside a Shia mosque in a Hangu city market. On February 7, a cop was killed in a bomb attack targeting a police van in Karachi's Orangi Town. On February 8, while a bomb explosion in Orakzai Agency had killed 16 people, some Baloch militants had fired rocket-propelled grenades in Balochistan's Turbat district, leaving a soldier and five others dead on the spot. On February 11, at least six persons were killed in various incidents of target killing in Karachi. On February 14, a dozen people had died in a blast at a police checkpoint in Hangu. Soon after, seven militia men were killed in a bomb attack on an anti-Taliban tribe in the Orakzai region. Similarly, two passenger vehicles were struck by landmines, killing nine people near the Hassan Khel area of Orakzai on the same day and some six suicide bombers were killed while attacking a police station outside the Bannu city on the same day.

On February 16, more than 90 people (pre-dominantly Hazara Shias) were killed after a suicide bomber had struck a busy market place in Quetta. On February 17, eight people were killed in target killings in Karachi. On February 18, gunmen clad in police uniforms had attacked the compound of a senior government official in Peshawar, killing four security guards. Eight more people were killed in targeted killings in Karachi on the same day. In Lahore, a prominent eye-surgeon Dr. Syed Ali Haider and his 11 year old son, Murtaza, were shot dead. This incident was widely believed to be the outcome of sectarian violence. On February 25, a blast at the shrine of a revered Sufi saint Shah Lakhi Ghulam in Sindh's Shikarpur city had killed two people. The blast had occurred at a time when devotees had gathered in huge numbers to pay homage to the saint. On March 3, 2013, a powerful explosion had ripped through a crowd of Shia Muslims in Karachi, killing nearly 50 people as they were coming out of a mosque. On March 9, a blast in the Jamia Chishtia Mosque of Peshawar had killed four people. On March 11, a suicide bomber had blown himself up near a police van in Bannu city, killing at least two people. On March 15, a

bomb blast in Karachi had killed three people. On March 18, a suicide attack in Peshawar had claimed four lives. On March 21, a car bomb had killed at least 17 people at the Jalozei camp, a sprawling tent settlement near the city of Nowshera that has been home to thousands of Pakistanis displaced by fighting between troops and militants.

On March 22, a remote-controlled bomb planted on a motorbike had killed eight people on a bus station in Balochistan's remote town of Dera Allah Yar. On March 24, at least 17 Pakistani soldiers were killed when a suicide bomber had banged an explosives-laden water tanker into a check post in the restive North Waziristan tribal region. On March 29, a dozen people were killed when a suicide bomber had attacked the convoy of the commandant of Frontier Constabulary near the Peshawar Cantonment. On March 30, a suicide bomber had struck a police patrol in Peshawar, killing a policeman. On March 31, the principal of a private school in Karachi's Ittehad Town was killed in a sectarian shooting incident. Same day, two persons were killed in a bomb blast in Peshawar. On April 2, 2013, at least seven people were killed in an attack by dozens of militants on an electricity plant in Peshawar. On April 4, suspected militants had targeted a vehicle carrying paramilitary security officers in Karachi. This grenade attack had claimed three scalps. On April 10, gunmen had shot dead a policeman protecting a team of female polio workers in the town of Ghalla Dher, situated on the outskirts of Mardan city. On April 11, a Muttahida Qaumi Movement leader Fakhru'l Islam was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Hyderabad. Fakhru'l Islam was a candidate for the upcoming polls.

On April 13, a bomb planted in a bus had killed at least eight passengers in Peshawar. On April 14, a bomb blast had killed a local ANP leader in Swat Valley. On April 16, at least four people were killed in Khuzdar. The dead had included the son, brother and nephew of Pakistan Muslim League-N's provincial chief Sardar Sanaullah Zehri. On April 16 again, at least 17 people, including policemen and minors, were killed in a suicide bomb blast that had torn through yet another Awami National Party corner meeting in Peshawar. On April 21, a female suicide bomber had detonated a bomb outside a hospital in Bajaur Agency, killing a few at the facility's gate. On April 21 again, at least six people were killed in two separate attacks carried out by unknown gunmen in Peshawar and Karachi. On April 22, six soldiers were killed in a roadside bomb attack in North Waziristan. On April 24, as many as eight bomb explosions had rocked Pakistan within just 24 hours. A dozen people had resultantly perished in country's three provincial capitals. On April 25, in continuing incidents of violence that visibly threaten holding of the general election on May 11, at least 12 more people, including six political workers and four personnel of law enforcement agencies, were killed in separate incidents at Karachi, Balochistan's Noshki district and Karak district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In Karachi's Nusrat Bhutto Colony, a bomb had exploded outside an election office of MQM in Karachi, killing five of the party's stalwarts. On April 26, a bomb planted on a motorbike, had struck the Awami National Party office in Karachi, and had killed nine people. On April 27, three blasts in Karachi had killed at least six and had wounded 50 other humans. The PPP candidate for PS-111, Adnan Baloch was among the injured. Two of the bombs had hit the offices of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement and the Pakistan People's Party, which along with the ANP, were coalition partners in the previous federal government. And on April 28, three blasts had hit PPP and MQM polls offices in Karachi, killing four and wounding 50 others. While two activists of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf were also gunned down in Gujar Khan, five people had lost lives in Kohat in an explosion that had shattered the joint-office of an independent election candidate for NA-39, Syed Noor Akbar from Orakzai Agency and ANP candidate for Kohat NA-14, Khurshid Begum. Both the candidates remained safe in the explosion. Three people were killed in Peshawar at the election office of another contestant, Nasir Khan Afridi. In Swabi, two people were killed in a blast during the election rally of ANP candidate Ameer Rehman. Five people were also injured in the blast which was triggered by a remote controlled device. The

Muttahida Qaumi Movement also had to cancel its women's public meeting on Sunday due to security threats. Last but not least, a portion of railway track was also blown up near Baxal Jamali crossing in Nawabshah district. Overall, till the filing of this report at 12.50 am Monday, some 11 people had been killed in attacks on election offices and candidates throughout the country. In Quetta, a child was killed in a blast outside a corner meeting being held on Sariab Road.

**The News - May 02, 2013**

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**ECONOMIC WATCH****Facts & Figures****SBP Extends Agriculture Loans Tenor**

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) extended agriculture loans tenor from three to five years for Small and Rural Enterprises under the Credit Guarantee Scheme to facilitate eligible farmers for purchase of tractors and other agriculture implements said a circular letter addressed to all banks and micro finance banks. To avoid portfolio concentration in tractor and other implements financing, the aggregate financing under this category shall not exceed 20 percent of the total allocated guarantee limit of the bank, the circular added.

**Daily Times - May 11, 2013**

**Islamic Banking Effective For Non-Muslim Economies'**

Meezan Bank Executive Vice President and Head of Consumer Banking and Marketing Muhammad Raza said Islamic banking was launched primarily for Muslims but generally it is also beneficial even for non-Muslims as the representatives from some non-Muslim countries approached him to elaborate the Islamic banking financial model at the end of an International Conference on Housing Finance held in India last month. He said he was called on the International Conference on Housing Finance on Housing - an engine for inclusive growth organized by National Housing Bank of India in New Delhi last month in which representatives from 12 countries had participated. There he presented Islamic house financing model developed by Meezan Bank. After the conference ended, participants from Nigeria, Japan and Afghanistan approached him, expressed their interest in Islamic banking model and asked to elaborate it to them. He said Meezan Bank has recently provided its advisory services to Sri Lanka. He cited an example, "United Kingdom has 32 percent Muslim population and is promoting London as an Islamic finance hub." He said the only reason behind it is that they are aware of its benefits for the economy. "However, being a non-Muslim country they cannot implement it with the name Islamic banking so they would rename it and promote it as ethical banking." It points they have began to understand Islamic banking and are working on this, he added. According to a recent estimate by Standard & Poor's, the global market potential for Islamic banks is estimated at \$4 trillion. The countries like Oman, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Maldives have opened their doors for Islamic finance and are encouraging new and existing financial institutions to offer Islamic financial services to their customers. In Pakistan, Raza has estimated the Islamic banking share at 15 percent of overall banking industry by 2015, which now stands at approximately 10 percent. He said the annual growth rate has been 25 to 30 percent. To grow the share at a faster pace, Meezan Bank is also developing some new products for consumer financing like generator financing, motorcycle financing, teen and kid account, old age people account, etc to offer the benefits of Islamic banking to the masses. Branchless banking is also under consideration. He said some Islamic scholars are the hurdles to some extent on the way to the survival of Islamic banking in Pakistan.

**Daily Times - May 12, 2013**

### **Budgetary Borrowing Close To Rs1 Trillion**

At the end of 10 months of the current fiscal year, budgetary borrowing is about to touch Rs1 trillion mark, which would be a challenging situation for the next elected government. The caretaker government during its tenure made efforts to reduce borrowing for the budgetary support while the State Bank during the same period discouraged banks from parking their liquidity into government papers. The returns on treasury bills were revised down, a trend that is expected to continue as inflation is falling. The State Bank reported on Tuesday that budgetary borrowing during the last 10 months rose to Rs988bn. They said borrowing would have crossed Rs1tr, had it been made at the earlier pace. “In the last auction, the State Bank did not raise liquidity as per target set for the T-bills,” said a money dealer in the banking industry. The State Bank had set Rs250bn as target for T-bills in the auction held on April 30, but total money raised was Rs150bn. According to the State Bank, the government plans to raise Rs200bn on May 15 auction and the maturity of the T-bills the same day would be Rs177bn. They said that the change may occur once the newly-elected government takes charge of the financial affairs and introduce new strategy. Bankers believe the caretaker government reduced borrowing through T-bills as it stopped payments for many large projects funded by the federal government and the decision was possibly taken in the wake of general elections and formation of new government in Islamabad. Bankers and some analysts said the record growth activities in the share market could be a welcoming sign for the new government which may spur growth in other segments of economy. Though the previous two governments of Nawaz Sharif could not make any major breakthrough for economy, many businessmen and bankers were hopeful that the new government would adopt long-term strategy to reduce debt burden, both domestic and external loans. The government has been repaying loans taken under the standby agreement with the IMF. Economists started suggesting that a new agreement with the IMF is a must to save the country from default on external account.

**Dawn - May 15, 2013**

### **Agriculture Sector Remains Worst Hit In Last 5 Years**

Despite having an agricultural economy, Pakistan’s agriculture sector remained the worst hit and most neglected area of the economy in the last five years. Fertilizer Manufacturers Pakistan Advisory Council (FMPAC) while congratulating Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and its leadership Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif for securing majority in general election hoped their government would revive the agriculture sector of the country to ensure farmers’ well being and food security of 190 million countrymen. FMPAC Executive Director Shahab Khawaja hoped PML-N government would ensure early revival of the agriculture sector through better and long-term policies. Pakistan cannot afford to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on urea import and we are hopeful that PML-N government would ensure judicious distribution of gas among all the sectors of economy. Due to worst-ever gas curtailment to fertilizer sector in last three years, the country spent foreign exchange of \$1.5 billion and also paid a subsidy of around Rs 80 billion on the imports of 3.4 million tones during 2010-12. Fertilizer sector is not burning gas to run plants, it offers maximum value addition by converting raw gas into precious urea grains and country hugely benefits from the fertilizer industry. He informed by not producing urea locally we are not only hurting the interest of poor farmers, who ensure food security of 190 million people of this country, “but we have to import urea which is the most expensive form of energy on million British thermal unit (MMBTU) basis, costing around \$23 per MMBTU, whereas RFO and LNG would be 30-50 percent less expensive than urea on MMBTU basis.

**Daily Times - May 16, 2013**

**‘Improvement of Economy Should Be Top Priority of New Government’**

President ICCI Zafar Bakhtawari talking to members of Islamabad District Bar Association led by its President Dr Syed M Anwar Shah said election process in the country had almost been completed and it was time to move forward to address the burning issues of the country. The new government should focus on good governance and political stability, which were must for economic stability and investment in the country, he said. Bakhtawari said our neighbors China and India were achieving fast economic progress and Pakistan has to catch up with them to remain competitive in the region. He appreciated the efforts of Islamabad Bar Association in making contribution for the welfare of its members and betterment of society. Dr Syed M Anwar Shah said healthy relationship between ICCI and Islamabad District Bar was good for serving the common interests of their members. ICCI and Islamabad District Bar being the important segments of society should join hands to develop a strong pressure group that could influence the government for implementation of constitutional rights and economic policies. ICCI former President Munawar Mughal emphasized for shifting district court set ups from F-8 Markaz to G-11 sector, presence of courts and lawyers in this key business centre was badly affecting the business activities.

Daily Times - May 17, 2013

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**Foreign Exchange Reserves Decline To 11.601\$ Billion**

The foreign exchange reserves of the country have declined by \$262 million or 2.2 percent in last one week to \$11.601 billion as against \$11.863 billion last week, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Foreign reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan on 10th of this month amounted to \$6.525 billion, which were down by \$247 million or 3.64 percent as compared to the last week's figure of \$6.772 billion, while the net foreign reserves held by banks other than SBP were \$5.076 billion, down by \$14 million or 0.27 percent as against the previous week's \$5.090 billion.

Daily Times - May 17, 2013

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**NAB Recovered Rs25 Billion Last Years**

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has issued its annual report-2012 showing an upward trend in recovery of plundered national wealth. According to the report released on Friday and sent to President Asif Ali Zardari and caretaker Prime Minister retired Justice Mir Hazar Khan Khoso, NAB's total recoveries through voluntary return and plea bargain schemes stood at Rs25 billion last year, compared to Rs1.5bn in 2011.

NAB filed 95 references in different accountability courts last year, making a total of 719 cases, including 624 already pending in trial courts. The report said NAB had worked with bureaucracy for its re-structuring, strengthening of regulatory mechanism and removal of rule violations to prevent corruption in procurements and projects. A number of committees comprising bureaucrats were formed in major areas of governance to improve the performance on a sustainable basis. NAB spokesman Ramzan Sajid said: "Different projects and procurements amounting to Rs1.5 trillion were processed to save over Rs200bn, involving planning and pre-tendering irregularities." The bureau faced a tough time in the NRO implementation case under which it was to write a letter to the Swiss authorities to re-open a

money laundering case against President Asif Ali Zardari. Another case which put the bureau under pressure was about the rental power projects scam in which former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf is allegedly involved. NAB processed 7,889 complaints, completed 392 inquiries and filed 95 references in accountability courts. It received 7,565 complaints, increasing the tally to 9,353, including a backlog of 1,788. A total of 392 inquiries were finalized (including closures and conversion into formal investigation) and 586 were under process.

NAB recommended placing the names of 192 accused on the exit control list through the interior ministry. The bureau started the process of induction and training of over 250 investigators in local and foreign faculties last year. The report quoted NAB Chairman retired Admiral Fasih Bokhari as saying that for 65 years and through 59 legislations, 'enforcement' being a primary anti-corruption tool had not worked. "Pakistan's absolute corruption index was unchanged at 2.5/10 since the beginning of Transparency International Corruption Perception Index," he said. The report said focus on the private sector was not the best starting point to weed out corruption from society because the sector was the engine of growth. "It is the function of businessmen to make maximum profit and the duty of the state's regulatory mechanism is to control the level of profit," the NAB chief said.

Dawn - May 19, 2013

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### **Rs22bn More For 'Corrupt' Power Sector: Minister**

As load shedding surged across the country amid rising temperatures and declining generation, the caretaker government decided on Monday to inject another Rs22.5 billion into the power system to revive a broken down supply chain and provide some relief to the consumers. Power Minister Dr Musadik Malik announced the decision taken by the prime minister, but said injection of public money into a highly corrupt, inefficient and bottomless power sector was not the best of economic decisions. The decision had nevertheless been taken to provide relief to the people suffering from widespread outages under extreme weather conditions, he said. He attributed the problem to disruption in fuel supplies, saying the power sector was getting 19,000 tons of furnace oil from the petroleum ministry during the election time that plunged to an average of 11,000 tons per day because of non-payments. On top of that, the ministry cut additional gas supply to power houses by half – from 50 million cubic feet daily to 75MMcfd. As a result of these factors, the generation tumbled to about 9,500 megawatts from 12,800MW a week ago. He said the demand had increased to about 15,500MW, leaving a shortfall of over 6,000MW.

The minister said after he raised the alarm before the prime minister, the latter immediately called a meeting of the ministries of petroleum, power and finance and ordered disbursement of Rs22.5bn within a day. About Rs15bn of the amount will be utilized to retire letters of credit of the Pakistan State Oil (PSO) to revive the oil supply chain, while Rs3-4bn has been earmarked to purchase diesel for four efficient power plants in the private sector that were facing closure due to gas cuts. The diesel-based electricity would be expensive, but not much when compared with the suffering of the people, the minister said. He said a couple of shipments of furnace oil ordered by PSO had to be cancelled or delayed in recent weeks, but one of them had been revived following the decision for fresh disbursements. As a result, the power generation has again increased to 10,800MW and will improve to about 12,500MW in two days.

Dr Malik said the prime minister had asked the finance ministry to sanction another Rs42bn for disbursement to the power sector next month because Rs22.5bn would cater for only 10 days to maintain the supply at 12,000MW during the current month. He said he had inherited a power generation of 7,800MW and had been able to increase it to 12,800MW in a short period, which

meant that the coming government with substantial time and understanding could add another 3,000MW in three months. Dr Malik said his ministry and the power sector were full of corrupt officials and he had been able to dislodge the linchpin of the mafia by removing some of the key officials, including the managing director of the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC), head of the National Power Control Centre (NPCC) and a few others at the Jamshoro Generation Company.

He said the new government, with a broader mandate and resources at its disposal, could substantially bring the system under control only by bringing offline power houses into use, ensuring expected improvement in hydroelectricity generation and controlling theft. Dr Malik said a random audit over the past few days had revealed that 22 out of 32 grid stations had been closed down in Gujranwala region, the entire Sialkot was out of system for the coming few days and Faisalabad was off grid, while Mansehra region did not get electricity for 18 straight hours. The minister said power production at the Jamshoro plant could have been made possible at five cents per unit through its dedicated gas supply, but the electricity was being produced at Rs16-18 per unit on furnace oil. He criticized the contracts signed with the Karachi Electric Supply Company and revisions in them introduced by the previous government, but said the caretaker government did not have the mandate to open legal documents during a short period. The contracts could be revised by making use of violations being committed by the KESC, which the next government would be better placed to look into, he said. "The new government would have to move quickly for conversion of power plants to coal and co-generation to resolve the crisis," the caretaker minister concluded.

Dawn - May 21, 2013

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### Rupee Slips after Pre-Poll Boost

High aspirations attached with the general elections could not maintain the elevated spirit of the currency market, and the local currency has further slipped. They said global investors have once again focused their attention to US dollar which they believe was the only global currency with stability. Investors have been coming out from gold, oil and euro to buy dollars, they said. During a year, the gold lost 25 per cent value while it was currently being traded at \$1360 per ounce. It was \$1800 per ounce a year back. The greenback got Rs100 as permanent exchange rate in the open market while the inter-bank currency market was relatively stronger. The trade data of last 10 months of the current fiscal year shows that both imports and exports were almost in the range of previous year. No significant growth was seen except that imports fell by \$300m during this period compared to last year. Malik Bostan, Chairman, Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan identified another reason for upset in the open market where dollar appreciated and demand was still high. "We are facing a reverse trend in Pakistan since gold is being imported in this country while global investors are coming out from this metal business," said Bostan. "The gold price fell to Rs51,000 per tola from Rs57,000 within a few months, which is an attraction for Pakistanis, particularly for those who sold out their holdings while the price was high," said Bostan. The currency experts said if gold price goes up, it will attract dollar in the open market and investors would leave the greenback to shed some weight against other currencies. It may help local currency also.

Dawn - May 21, 2013

### **‘Tax-To-GDP Ratio Needs Improvement to Help Economy’**

Pakistan’s future is linked to promotion of tax culture and improving tax-to-GDP ratio to make country a respectable and self-sustaining nation. Ansar Javed Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Thursday said we have chalked out a plan to promote tax culture in country for which many steps have been initiated including establishment of a Data Warehouse, which would boost the number of taxpayers from existing 1.3 million to 20 million. At a pre-budget seminar organised by Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) he said meeting business community help us to get first-hand knowledge and reaction of the stakeholders which would help us improve performance and ensure a level playing field. We are seriously vetting budget proposals to facilitate business community and we need support of FPCCI to expand the tax base, he said. We are employing latest technology alter to local needs, to facilitate taxpayers and discourage misuse of authority by field staff. Assuring all support to the business community, Javed said FBR was not supposed to collect taxes only but to take care of economic direction of the country and play its role in development of society. President FPCCI Zubair Ahmed Malik informed chairman FBR country was passing through difficult situation due to mismanagement, bad governance, deteriorating law and order situation and energy crunch which have increased the crime rate, unemployment and revenue loss. FPCCI will support all the positive steps of FBR to put economy back on tract, he assured. VP FPCCI Iftikhar Ali Malik and Minister for Information Technology Sindh Mian Zahid Hussain and office bearers of various business chambers said SRO culture should be discouraged, as it served no purpose but to confused businessmen. Consultation with business community before issuance of SROs and other directives should be made mandatory to boost confidence, they demanded. Criticising the sales tax regime, they said it was not progressive but regressive which was not helping in any way. Participants of the seminar also discussed issues pertaining to recent economic downturn, revenue targets, mismanagement, tax relaxations, confusing rules and regulations, continuation in policies, tax breaks, increasing share of parallel economy in the national GDP, registration and deregistration process and overall tax environment.

**Daily Times - May 31, 2013**

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## DEVELOPMENT WATCH

### Health Projects

#### Girls' Education Stressed For Reproductive Health

“Girls in our village are now educated and trained on a number of matters which, though so basic to life, were never addressed by their parents. These issues are related to our bodies, reproductive health, women’s rights and gender,” said on Tuesday a participant in a programme held to share the experiences of a project which completed its three years in Khairpur district. The project titled Reproductive Health through Girls’ Education was carried out by the Indus Resource Centre (IRC) in collaboration with the Sindh education department, Community Health Services of the Aga Khan University and Aahung. It was funded by David and Lucile Packard Foundation. It covered 66 villages in the tehsils of Sobhodero, Gambat and Kotdiji in Khairpur district and benefited 3,066 girls and 2,114 boys receiving elementary education from 16 IRC and government schools. The project addressed four millennium development goals relating to universal education, women empowerment, and reduction in child mortality and improvement in maternal health.

Referring to the observations of some experts working in the targeted group, they noted that a visible change had been observed in male and female attitudes towards contraception. For instance, men had taken the burden of birth control and there had been an increase in vasectomies. Khairpur, it was pointed out, had one of the highest numbers in vasectomies in Sindh. This change had come on account of increasing awareness among men who were also educated on safe sex. Giving a presentation on the project’s evaluation findings prepared by Dr Asha Bedar and Maliha Zia Lari, Rahal Saeed, an independent consultant on reproductive health, said the NGO was able to establish credible reputation and good networks within the community and moved beyond formal education by creating awareness, building capacity and changing attitudes. “A holistic approach was adopted and early resistance was dealt with appropriately. Mental health is now seen as an important component of health and there has been an increase on issues relating to health, especially sexual health. “Mental violence is now seen as a form of domestic violence by men and boys. Women and girls are demanding their fundamental rights and resisting the pressure to forgo them. More people now believe that women should get married at a later age,” she said.

Dawn - May 22, 2013

### Health Reports/ Controls

#### Deadly Premonition: NWA Reports First Polio Case since Taliban Ban

The first case of polio was reported in North Waziristan Agency (NWA) since the Taliban imposed a ban on the entry of vaccination teams in the region in June last year. On June 16, 2012, Hafiz Gul Bahadur distributed pamphlets in the agency saying no anti-polio team would be allowed in the region unless drone strikes were stopped. He maintained that, while polio infects one person, drone strikes can kill hundreds of innocent people including women and children. Mullah Nazir followed suit, accusing the US of deploying spies. He said those who would violate the orders and administer vaccines to their children would be dealt with severely. Since then, no anti-polio drive was carried out in North or South Waziristan. The affected child,

one-year-old Arifa, belongs to Mir Ali tehsil in NWA. This is the seventh reported case across the country and the first from the tribal belt this year. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), the child received no polio drops due to the ban on polio vaccinations imposed by the Taliban. “I was unofficially told about the emergence of a new case, but it has not officially been communicated to us as yet and I will ask the polio control room [about it],” said Director General Health Fata Fawad Khan. He refused to further comment on the matter.

According to the World Health Organization, a total of 1.87 million children across the country missed out anti-polio drops in the last National Immunization Days from April 15 to 17. The total target population for the last campaign in Fata was 1.3 million, out of which 0.52 million children were vaccinated. According to the Fata health department, 0.2 million children missed out on vaccines in North and South Waziristan due to the ban. The prime minister’s focal person on polio eradication Shehnaz Wazir Ali earlier asked the then K-P governor Masood Kausar to use his influence to convince the Taliban to allow anti-polio teams to administer vaccines, but little headway was made in the following negotiations. Of the six other cases reported in the country, three are from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), one from Punjab and two from Sindh. Last year, the country reported 58 cases, with K-P and Fata topping the list with 27 and 20 cases, respectively.

The Express Tribune - May 04, 2013

### **Unhealthy Revelations: Pakistan Plagued By Dismal Healthcare System**

Provision of healthcare is among the most corrupt services in the country according to the Pakistan Lancet Series, an “in depth study on the country’s healthcare system”. The study proposes substantial changes in the accountability and transparency of the health sector for improving its performance. According to the series, an estimated 8-9 million people are infected with hepatitis-C virus, 620,000 people have tuberculosis and every year 410,000 people are infected while 59,000 die from the disease. It further revealed that 500,000 cases of malaria are detected annually and 5,000 people die of rabies every year. Poliomyelitis remains endemic despite an intense global focus on eradicating the disease. Pakistan has a dismal record of reducing fertility rate although it has fallen from six births per women in 1990 to 3.6 in 2012, which is still higher compared to other South Asian countries. With nearly one million women seeking unsafe abortions annually, family planning is the most neglected component of women health issues. The most large-scale public health crisis is the child mortality rate with about 423,000 children under five dying annually, nearly half of whom are new born babies. This is compounded by the deaths of 12,000 mothers. Pakistan has the third highest number of maternal, fetal and child mortality deaths with 57 per cent of neonatal deaths occurring in the first 72 hours after birth.

### **Bleak Healthcare System**

Public spending on health is at \$9.31 per person, much less than the internationally recommended \$60 per person whereas 78.08 per cent of the population pays from their pockets for healthcare. Presently 121,374 doctors are registered in Pakistan while the doctor-to-population ratio of 1:1127 is fewer than the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended 1:1000. Cost of non-communicable diseases. Nearly four million people aged 30 – 69 are predicted to die from cardiovascular disease, cancers, and chronic respiratory disease by 2025, with tobacco use as the prime factor behind it. Quoting surveys indicate that nearly 29 per cent of men in Pakistan smoke, as do four per cent of women. High blood pressure is also a leading risk factor for these illnesses, with an estimated 35 per cent of adults in 2008 thought to possess

high blood pressure. Government investment in health was recommended to increase to at least five per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2025.

**The Express Tribune - May 18, 2013**

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### **Ordinance for HIV/AIDS Control Promulgated In Sindh**

Governor Sindh Dr Ishrat-ul-Ibad Khan on Wednesday promulgated The Sindh HIV/AIDS Control, to provide protection to HIV patients from being marginalized. Caretaker Sindh Minister for Law, Mehmood Mandviwala in a consequent announcement said this was the first HIV/ AIDS law in the region that equally contains provision to control transmission of the virus and facilitate treatment of the people living with the condition. The law minister, who also holds the portfolio of Prisons, said the most important provisions of this ordinance were the protection provided to the people living with HIV against discriminations in all spheres of life, including health-care, employment and education. The ordinance also incorporates penalties prescribed for any such discrimination and stigmatization of the HIV/ AIDS patients. Mandviwala said Pakistan was facing a concentrated epidemic of HIV/ AIDS and the government, since 1987 when the first HIV positive case was reported in the country, had been attempting to respond to the situation, through national and provincial AIDS control programs respectively.

**Daily Times - May 23, 2013**

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## **Education Projects**

### **‘Educate a Child’: Campaign Launched To Help Needy Dropout Students**

The Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Tuesday launched a new scheme ‘Educate a Child’ to give financial and academic support to dropout students with the cooperation of domestic and foreign donors. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the campaign, AIOU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Nazir Ahmed Sangi said that under this initiative, deserving students of all age groups would be able to get education from primary to matriculation level through open-schooling system. “People from home and abroad will be motivated to bear educational expenses of at least one child in order to overcome illiteracy in the country,” he said. On the occasion Prof Dr Sangi and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Zafar Bakhtawari also announced to join hands for implementing the scheme and help the government educate the nation through formal as well as distance-learning system. Zafar Bakhtawari assured that they would extend full support to the AIOU in its task to help the poor and needy students, especially those living in districts of Chakwal, Vehari, Thatta and other parts of the country where literacy rate is below 40 percent. Zafar Bakhtawari lauded the vision and efforts of the vice chancellor in promoting AIOU’s linkages with the business community and non-governmental organisations in the educational pursuits. He said that he would also work with the AIOU for motivating domestic and foreign donors to help in educating the nation at the primary, middle and matriculation levels under the newly introduced scheme.

**Daily Times - May 14, 2013**

## ENERGY CRISIS

### Government's Role in Oil and Gas

#### Gas Reserves Found In Kirthar Belt

Italian energy major ENI with joint venture partners Pakistan Petroleum Ltd and Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company made the discovery in the Kirthar Fold Belt region, 270km north of Karachi. "During the production testing gas flowed at 33 million cubic feet per day highlighting an excellent potential for the future energy needs of the country," the ministry said in a statement. Officials said that under an early production scheme, gas supply from the new reserve would be possible within three years. The discovery of new oil and gas reservoirs were "vital" to cope with the prevailing energy shortage in the country, Mr Siddiqui said. ENI has been in Pakistan since 2000 and is the country's largest producer, with an average production of 54,800 barrels of oil equivalent per day in 2011.

Dawn - May 04, 2013

#### Senate Body for Early Completion of IP, TAPI Gas Projects

The country is confronting severe power and gas shortfall and completing the above two projects on time will be great achievement. The meeting was held in the Parliament House under chairmanship of Senator Muhammad Yousuf. Over IP Gas Pipeline Project, the parliamentarians expressed serious reservations over delay in distribution of gas pipeline while on Iranian side more work had been completed. The committee chairman said Pakistan urgently needed its completion but delaying tactics were being used. Pakistan is just dealing in paper work while physically nothing has been done so far. ISGS managing director told the committee that under the IP Gas Pipeline Project, the gas is to be supplied from Iran's South Pars gas field and delivered at Pak-Iran border, near Gwadar. The project is being implemented on a segmented approach whereby each country shall be responsible for construction of the pipeline in the respective territory. From Iran side, he said only 250km gas pipeline is left to provide gas to the border of Pakistan. While on Pakistan's side, the physical work is yet to be started, he maintained. Iran will also provide \$500 million in kinds to Pakistan for laying the gas pipeline. The completion date of the project is Dec 2014, which will provide 750 million cubic feet per day gas to Pakistan, the MD added. He further said that the estimated cost of Pakistan segment of pipeline is about \$1.8 billion and Pakistan has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to meet the challenges of project financing, which included government to government agreement, Gas Infrastructure Development Cess as well as commitments from public sector entities.

The petroleum secretary told the committee that Pakistan could not initiate the work due to some financial problem but Pakistan has signed several agreements with Iranian delegations. In order to begin the work, it requires more legislation on part of government of Pakistan, he maintained. He also assured the committee that approval would be made from concerned authority in Pakistan. The TAPI Gas Pipeline Project aims to bring natural gas from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. Several international consortiums will finance this project, which will provide 3.2 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas. The ISGS MD told the committee it will be completed by 2017 and the gas sale purchase agreement was already done. The committee was informed that Inter-governmental Agreement was signed by the head of states of all the member countries during TAPI Summit held at Ashgabat on Dec 11, 2010. The

Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement was signed by the respective petroleum ministers of the four countries. The committee in written was informed that TAPI parties already agreed in principle to appoint Asian Development Bank (ADB) as transaction adviser to broadly update the pre-feasibility study, market the project, take the transaction to financial close and assist parties in finalization of pipeline consortium. In this regard draft transaction advisory services agreement has been circulated by the ADB to TAPI parties, which is currently under review.

**Daily Times - May 14, 2013**

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### **Oil Prices Drop**

Crude prices fell, despite news that International Energy Agency has upgraded its forecast for oil demand growth for this year. In London late afternoon deals, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in June shed 13 cents to \$102.69 a barrel. New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) or light sweet crude for June, lost 18 cents to \$94.99 per barrel. "Crude oil prices have continued their recent declines, despite the IEA increasing its forecast for oil demand for 2013," said CMC Markets analyst Michael Hewson. "Instead of supporting prices we've seen declines continue as rising inventories in the United States mean that supply will likely outweigh demand for quite some time to come." The IEA, which tracks the energy market for the world's industrialized nations, raised marginally its outlook for global oil demand growth in 2013 to 90.6 million barrels a day. The forecast for non-Opec supply in 2013 was hiked 50,000 to 54.5 mbd owing to strong output in North America. In addition, the IEA declared that booming oil output in North America, driven by the shale energy revolution, has created a global "supply shock" that is reshaping the industry. "North America has set off a supply shock that is sending ripples throughout the world," said IEA Executive Director Maria van der Hoeven while presenting the agency's five-year outlook for the oil market.

**Dawn - May 15, 2013**

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### **Oil Prices Extend Losses**

Global oil prices slid as traders awaited the latest inventories report from leading world consumer the United States. In London early afternoon deals, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in June dipped 32 cents to \$102.28 a barrel. New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) or light sweet crude for June, shed \$1.19 to \$93.02 a barrel. The US government's Energy Information Administration (EIA) will later publish its weekly snapshot of crude stockpiles. The oil market was sent plunging last week after the EIA had revealed that American crude stocks were at their highest level since 1982, indicating that production was outstripping demand. Meanwhile, crude futures had fallen after the International Energy Agency said the output boom in North America was sending a "supply shock" across the world. The International Energy Agency fuelled bearish sentiment in a report predicting growing crude oil supply through 2018, led by North America, that would outstrip demand. The International Energy Agency raised marginally its outlook for global demand growth in 2013 to 90.6 million barrels per day (bpd). The IEA hiked its forecast for non-OPEC supply in 2013 by 50,000 barrels to 54.5m bpd owing to the projected strong output in North America. Oil prices had also retreated on Monday on fresh signs of economic weakness in China — the world's largest energy consumer — and also remained under pressure by brimming the US stockpiles.

**Dawn - May 16, 2013**

## Conference on Solutions for Energy Crisis Concludes

Presenting Energy Vision 2030 on the concluding day of the conference on 'Solutions for Energy Crisis', Sir Syed CASE Institute of Technology Vice Chancellor Dr Shaukat Hameed Khan warned there were no easy and quick solutions to the power shortage problem being faced by the country as there was grave dichotomy at the policy base, the Planning Commission had been overshadowed by the Finance Ministry and absence of continuity had deprived concerned authority of institutional memory. On top of that fuel needed for energy generation as well as funds to pay the enormous circular debt were in short supply. The energy system was not attuned to technology, which determined the demand and supply equation. The Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline would only partially meet the shortage. There were homegrown solutions available and coal above every other resource offered a natural option but planners had been neglecting these for over three decades now. Unless the new government girded its loins and harmonized its fragmented governance in this respect it would be hard to end power outages anywhere in the near future. He estimated the country would need \$210 billion in the next 20 years to meet the growing energy needs. He favored coal-based energy but since mining of Thar coal could take long Pakistan should import coal for immediate use in place of diesel and furnace oil. The present thermal power units now using expensive imported furnace oil could easily be converted to use this formulated material, which would reduce by one third the present cost of power. He claimed the entire changeover could be accomplished in six months to one year. He said it was not a new technology and was in use in Russia and China while India was using it through imported coal. The technology was offered to the previous government but it did not respond for its own reasons. Now the CWS Technology was being offered to the private sector.

Earlier, Private Power and Infrastructure Board Managing Director N A Zuberi said the private sector was producing the bulk of the electricity (46 percent) but shortage fuel and funds was constraining generation growth. He said work was apace on the feasibility of Mega Power Parks based on imported and local coal. If these parks materialized the country's energy shortage would end. IPS Senior Associate Advocate Ameena Sohail spoke on impact of 18th Amendment of the constitution on energy generation and called it merely cursory as much remained to be done by the Council of Common Interests that needed to be activated in this regard, particularly in respect of the Strategic Plan of 1992. Barrister Aeman Maluka spoke on energy conservation efforts, which she said only existed on paper as the policy of self regulation by industries was a failure in the absence of an overseeing mechanism. She said environmental taxes also could not be imposed in a country where tax theft was rampant. QAU's Dr Nazir Hussain spoke on diplomacy and international dimension of energy management. The conference was organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) and Hanns Seidel Foundation, Islamabad.

Daily Times - May 17, 2013

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## 18 Hours' Load Shedding Hampers Textile Industry

Around 16-18 hours load shedding has seriously affected the production of textile industry causing huge damages to export orders and precious foreign exchange, said All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) Chairman Ahsan Bashir. He said the non-availability of gas and electricity was causing adverse impact on industry's sustainability and growth, contributing 9 percent to the country's GDP. This contribution may add further 3 percent in case textile exports are taken to \$22 billion from existing level of \$12 billion. However the energy shortage, which is primarily haunting the growth of Punjab-based textile industry, is ultimately ruining the growth potential as 70 percent. The textile industry can be the engine of growth for economy as well as a biggest employment provider in the country in case the government assures priority to

the textile industry in energy supply. The 16 to 18 hours electricity shut downs on independent feeders has put the industry management in a fix whether to continue with operational cost or not, as the labour is not yet laid off and the faults appearing in electronic machinery is being affected amidst unbearable losses. He has urged the economic manager to ensure energy availability for industry preparedness to avail market access associated with Generalized System of Preferences plus or market access to the USA in order to re-attract the brands and buyers ahead.

Daily Times - May 21, 2013

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### **China Offers Help to End Pakistan's Energy Woes**

Li held formal talks with the Pakistani side, led by President Asif Ali Zardari and Interim Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso, reviewing “the entire gamut of Pakistan-China relations”, at a joint news conference with President Zardari, he stressed the need for increased cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector. China is already assisting Pakistan in several energy projects that include nuclear reactors. It has already provided two reactors, each with a capacity of 300MW, at Chashma in Punjab. The two countries are also planning to build two more reactors with the same capacity. Li also said the two countries were working to develop an ‘economic corridor’ that will not only spur economic activities but also restore peace in the region. This vision, once realized, will have great strategic significance for development, peace and stability in China, South Asia and the rest of the continent, and improve the lives of people in our region. According to a foreign office statement, a total of 11 agreements have been signed between China and Pakistan as part of efforts to further deepen ties. The agreements include memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on maritime cooperation, boundary management, border ports, economic and technical cooperation and cooperation in the field of satellite navigation. Separately, the visiting Chinese high-powered business delegation signed procurement agreements worth \$450 million to help Pakistani businesses utilise the tremendous potential of China.

The Express Tribune - May 23, 2013

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### **China Takes Over Operational Control of Gwadar Port**

China has successfully taken over the operational control of Gwadar Port on Thursday. With its financial and technical assistance China built this port on Pakistan's southwest coast. The Chinese would help link coastal highway with the port besides would start trans-shipment, sources in the Port and Shipping said. The business community is terming the deal a great success as it will offer an energy and trade corridor that will connect China to the Arabian Sea and Strait of Hormuz, a gateway for a third of the world's traded oil, overland through an expanded Karakoram Highway. They said it would cut thousands of kilometers (kms) off the distance, which oil and gas imports from Africa and the Middle East have to travel to reach China. China paid about 75 percent of the initial \$250 million used to build the port but in 2007 PSA International won a 40-year operating lease. The Singaporean firm decided to quit the Gwadar project after Pakistan's government failed to transfer land needed to develop a free zone, as was promised under a 40-year concession deal signed in February 2007.

The port has the potential to serve as a secure outlet as well as storage and trans-shipment hub for the Middle East and Central Asia oil and gas supplies through a well-defined corridor passing through Pakistan. China has contributed about \$198 million of the initial investment for the port project. China will likely re-launch the Gwadar oil refinery project, which was halted in

2009 because of security concerns in the province. The refinery will have a total capacity of 19 million tonnes of oil per year. The proposed refinery and the oil pipeline is actually a part of a planned Pakistan-China energy corridor. Chinese engineers have already completed a feasibility study for a railroad and oil pipeline, which would enable Gwadar Port to handle most of the oil tankers headed to China. The operational control of the port will enable China's access to the Indian Ocean, which is strategically important for China as it expands its influence across the region. To ensure the security of shipments along existing routes, a Chinese naval presence at Gwadar could also patrol the Indian Ocean sea-lanes.

Daily Times - May 24, 2013

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### **Powering the Relationship: Nawaz Wants Energy, Not Aid, From China**

While the refrain when it comes to Pakistan's relations with the US has usually been 'trade not aid', with China it seems to be 'energy not aid'. In his meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Thursday, prime minister-to-be Nawaz Sharif sought Beijing's assistance in overcoming the country's worsening power crisis and urged him to further expand cooperation in the civil nuclear technology sector. A day earlier during his meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari, the Chinese premier offered his country's help in resolving Pakistan's energy crisis. During the meeting, both leaders discussed ways to further strengthen existing bilateral and strategic relations. Nawaz expressed an eagerness to avail Chinese expertise in order to develop infrastructure in Pakistan and asked Premier Keqiang to develop the Gwadar Port as early as possible to kickstart economic activity in the country. The two leaders also discussed a range of regional and international issues of common interest. The statement also said that both sides believe that terrorism, separatism and extremism pose a serious threat to regional peace, stability and security, and reaffirmed their resolve to continue cooperation to combat the 'three evil forces'.

The Express Tribune - May 24, 2013

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## REGIONAL WATCH

### Pakistan & United States

#### **Electoral Process Must Continue Despite Wave of Violence: US**

The US said that it was concerned over the wave of violence surrounding Pakistan, but called for the electoral process to continue. He condemned militant attacks on leaders and workers of political parties during electioneering urging people of Pakistan to ensure their full participation in the upcoming elections. He went on to say that the US has taken no position on former president Pervez Musharraf's return to Pakistan. US denounce statements emanating from militants on sabotaging election campaign in Pakistan and extend full support to right to people of Pakistan to elect their representatives. He hoped that the transfer of power in sequel to peaceful and transparent elections on May 11 is a historical juncture and people of Pakistan should be proud of it. US do not support any particular party or candidate in the coming polls, but it is looking forward to engage with the government to be elected as a result of the upcoming polls. To a question about drone attacks he refused to offer any comments.

Daily Times - May 02, 2013

#### **Pakistan Must Adopt Wise Policy on US Troop Withdrawal'**

US forces were not completely pulling out of Afghanistan as 10,000 to 15,000 troops would remain in the battle-ridden country, Pakistan must adopt a wise policy on the issue, said speakers at the launching of a book "Profiles of South Asian States" by Centre for South Asian Studies director, Prof Dr Umbreen Javaid at Punjab University. Brig (r) Farooq Hameed said that South Asian countries were facing instability and the stability of the region was linked to Indo-Pak relations. He said mutual relations between the two neighbors' had improved during the last three years but the element of mistrust also exists. He said Pakistan had helped Sri Lanka to fight civil war and that is why both countries are enjoying good relations. He termed the book an asset for the people interested in South Asian affairs. In her inaugural address, Dr Umbreen Javed lauded the efforts of the researchers who contributed to the book. Indo-US nuclear deal was against international laws but Pakistan started to seek the same package from the US instead of declaring Indo-US atomic deal illegal," he said adding that the book had covered basic information regarding South Asian countries in a comprehensive manner. Lauding Dr Umbreen Javaid and researchers of the centre, he said that the centre had started doing research on various aspects of South Asian countries in true manner under her leadership.

Daily Times - May 15, 2013

### Pakistan & India

#### **Prison Attacks: Sanaullah Declared 'Brain Dead', Says Foreign Office**

Sanaullah Haq, a Pakistani prisoner, who was hit with a sharp weapon in a Jammu jail, has been declared 'brain dead' by the Indian doctors, the foreign ministry spokesperson said on Sunday. Chaudhry said officials from Pakistan High Commission visited Sanaullah Ranjay in Chandigarh hospital for the second time on Sunday and were informed by doctors that chances of his survival are "very slim." Pakistan's High Commissioner to India Salman Bashir also plans to

travel to Chandigarh to inquire about the health of Sanaullah. "Our High Commissioner will visit Chandigarh once the Indian authorities give him formal permission." Sanaullah, a resident of Sialkot, was attacked by a former Indian soldier convicted for murder in Jammu's Kot Bhalwal jail. Pakistan is exploring the possibilities of taking Sanaullah's family members – two 15 and 18-year-old sons – to India and evacuating him back for better medical treatment. A foreign office official said that the sons cannot travel to India because they still don't have national identity cards made. "His (Sanaullah) brother-in-law will now go to India," the official added. The ministry spokesperson also confirmed to The Express Tribune that Pakistan has demanded release of 47 Pakistani prisoners in India who have already completed their prison terms. The Pakistan's High Commissioner to India has written a letter to Indian foreign secretary in this regard, he added. "Both Indian and Pakistani authorities must take prompt and concrete steps to ensure that prisoners do not face any further attacks," said director of Amnesty International India, Shashikumar Velath. Security in and around all cells of foreign convicts especially Indian civil convicts has been doubled across the jails of Punjab province of Pakistan. Inspector General of Prisons Punjab Mian Farooq Nazeer in an interview with APP on Sunday said that on the special directive of the caretaker chief minister of the province, foolproof security arrangements have been put in place in all 32 jails with the deployment of special contingents equipped with sophisticated weapons. All superintendents of jails have also been directed to submit a security inspection report daily to DIG and IG of the prison. Similarly, fearing backlash following death of Sarabjit Singh, Pakistani prisoners in the jails of Indian state of Punjab has been segregated from other prisoners, the Press Trust of India reported on Sunday. All superintendents of the central jails of the state have been ordered to shift the 57 Pakistani inmates, including two women, to side barracks and not to allow any interaction with Indian prisoners. Also Pakistani prisoners will not be permitted to leave their barracks till further notice. The jail officials have also been directed to check the food provided to Pakistani inmates and to supply it in person.

**The Express Tribune - May 06, 2013**

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### **Source Says Sarabjit Singh Was A RAW Agent**

According to a source who spoke to the Hindustan Times, "Sarabjit was an Indian spy in Pakistan," said an intelligence source. "He managed to accomplish the task given to him but was caught while trying to flee." A former intelligence official, who handled Singh's case, said the operation conducted by him didn't involve a specific tactical purpose, but was just one among many such operations that were conducted in Pakistan by Indian intelligence in the early and mid 90s. "Some of the operations executed by the RAW during the period were totally mindless," the official said. "Spies like Sarabjit and their family have paid huge cost for it. Sometimes, the agency officials executed operations out of personal bravado that they can get 'something' done in Pakistan." Sources said that, the process through which spies like Singh are dealt with is one that is evolving, which includes issues such as how they are paid, as well as instances of if they are caught in enemy territory. "Payments vary case to case depending on the nature of operation," the source said. "There is no uniformity in discreet payments to families when such agents are caught or eliminated by the enemy." "Sarabjit had been awarded a state funeral because his case was mainly highlighted due to efforts of his politically astute sister Dalbir Kaur, the source said. "His family is also being compensated, but there are many cases in which the spies came back from Pakistan knocked the doors of courts to get their dues."

**Dawn - May 06, 2013**

## US, Indian Envoys Meet Nawaz

Mr Olson said smooth transition of power would help strengthen democracy in Pakistan. He said the US wanted strong ties with Pakistan and it was also ready to help Pakistan overcome energy crisis. This was the second meeting of Mr Olson with Mr Sharif after the May 11 polls. Sources said the US envoy also discussed the Taliban issue with Mr Sharif. Mr Olson had said it was the prerogative of the (PML-N) government to hold talks with the Taliban. He said his government had no objection if Pakistan entered into talks with Taliban. In his meeting with Indian High Commissioner Sharat Sabharwal, Mr Sharif said Pakistan wanted to resolve all outstanding issues with India through negotiations.

Dawn - May 25, 2013

## Pakistan & Afghanistan

### Pak-Afghan Ties: Envoy Denies Pakistan Seeking 'Strategic Depth'

"Afghanistan doesn't offer strategic depth rather it can turn out to be a strategic graveyard for any foreign country," Muhammad Sadiq, Pakistan's ambassador in Kabul, told a group of visiting Pakistani journalists. He said Islamabad was not pursuing the strategic depth policy. Given the geographic location and the nature of its people, Afghanistan cannot offer strategic depth to any country, particularly to Pakistan, he added. Ambassador Sadiq, a career diplomat who has been serving as Pakistan's top envoy in Kabul for the last four years, said that the Afghan people always had misperception about Pakistan. "This misperception is created by a handful of Afghan elites," he added. On the recent border tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan over some check posts, Ambassador Sadiq said the posts on which Afghan forces claim their ownership were constructed by the Pakistani forces in 2002 and 2003. Nato officials had also visited these posts, he added. Referring to the conflicting claims of Kabul, Ambassador Sadiq said that on the one hand, they call for stopping cross-border infiltration, while on the other hand they demand demolition of Pakistani border posts. The biggest problem of the Afghan side is that they comment on issues without knowing the ground realities, he added.

However, he added that Pakistan should support Afghan people as much as they want and any extra support should be stopped as it creates suspicions among them. About the anti-Pakistan sentiment in Afghanistan, Ambassador Sadiq said it was not a new thing and such sentiments date from the 1947 partition. "Afghanistan was one of the countries which had not recognized Pakistan when it was created," he reminded. Good friendly relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan are in the interest of the two countries, but some Afghan elites always try to derail the relations. The ambassador said that Pakistan has stopped playing favorites' in Afghan politics and now it pursues a balanced policy as the policy of favoritism often invites animosity from certain groups in the neighboring country. Ambassador Sadiq said Islamabad has to recognize every government in Kabul, be it the Taliban regime in the 1990s or the present Karzai regime and this policy will continue in the future. "The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan is overlapping and everything is interrelated," he added. On the Afghan reconciliation process, Ambassador Sadiq said the position taken by Pakistan 10 years back to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table was being adopted now by the Afghan government and international community.

The Express Tribune - May 06, 2013