# ELECTION 

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NEWS HEADLINES
Captain (retd) Safdar to surrender himself to NAB Samaa TV, $8^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Record 171 women candidates in fray for Pakistan general elections Hindustan Times, $8^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Political parties coin catchy slogans to woo voters
The News, $8^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

RAWALPINDI: Captain (retd) Safdar arrived in Rawalpindi on Sunday to surrender himself to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). Before surrendering himself, he held a rally in Liaquat Bagh, where he waved to supporters from the hatch of a jeep. He was sentenced to one year in jail by an accountability court in the Avenfield case. Speaking to SAMAA TV, he said Nawaz Sharif's only crime is that he wants to take Pakistan forward. There are people who do not want Pakistan to progress, he said, adding that he believes the Panama Papers case is a fake case. People know what the case is really about, he said.
Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law said he would surrender himself to the authorities because it was a matter of honour. Commenting on the rally, SAMAA TV Analyst Adnan Adil said that the PML-N does not have the ability to gather enough people to rally on the streets and truly agitate the authorities because its supporters are mainly from the business community. At 4 pm , teams from NAB and the police arrived at Committee Chowk. PML-N supporters thronged Committee Chowk, blocking the way for the teams. Captain (retd) Safdar will be taken to the NAB office once he is arrested and will be presented before an accountability court on Monday. He will later be shifted to the Adiala Jail.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has awarded the maximum number of tickets (19) to women. The next largest party to award tickets is the right-wing Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), which has fielded 14 women candidates. As many as 171 women candidates will be in the run for Pakistan's forthcoming general elections on July 25, with 105 running from party platforms while another 66 will contest as independent candidates.This is the highest number of women ever to contest in a general election in Pakistan, but most women's rights groups say many of those in the race will not help raise women's issues in Parliament. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has awarded the maximum number of tickets (19) to women. The next largest party to award tickets is the right-wing Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), which has fielded 14 women candidates.
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and PML-N have fielded 11 women each. The Allah-o-Akbar party, on whose platform the Jamaat-ud-Dawah is contesting the elections, has fielded three women. The number of women candidates in the 2013 elections was 135, with the number of independent candidates higher than those of party ticket-holders - 74 and 61, respectively. In the 2008 elections, the number of women candidates was as low as 72 , including 41 party ticket-holders and 31 independents. Prominent among those contesting for general seats this year are Sumaira Malik and Tehmina Daultana of the PML-N, Asma Alamgir, Mehreen Anwar Raja and Samina Khalid Ghurki of PPP, and former minister Firdous Ashiq Awan and Yasmeen Rashid of PTI. Ayesha Gulalai, who has her own faction of the PTI, will contesting from four constituencies in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Islamabad and Sindh. Independent candidate Ali Begum Khan is the only woman contesting from the tribal districts. But women's rights groups insist that more women in Parliament does not translate into more power to women's issues. "We have been sorely disappointed in the past," said Tahira Abdullah of the Women Action Forum. Abdullah said many women, especially those who belong to religious parties, "usually do not even speak once on the floor during their entire time in Parliament". Political analyst Ghazi Salahuddin said it is the women elected on reserved seats or through the Senate who are the ones who usually end up highlighting women's issues in National Assembly and Senate. "These are the real crusaders." But even on general seats, there are exceptions. Sunita Parmar, a 31-year-old Hindu woman, is contesting the elections and is confident of challenging stereotypes. Parmar made history as the first Hindu woman to contest the provincial assembly.
PESHAWAR: "Bacha khani pakar da," Imran khani pakar da," "Na Bacha khani pakar da, na Imran khani pakar da, Musalamani pakar da," are the three popular Pashto slogans that the Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) have coined to woo the voters.

Though the big banners and posters displayed on main roads and roundabouts have been removed as per the code of conduct of the Election Commission of Pakistan, the activists of major political parties and supporters of independent candidates have fixed colourful flags, banners and posters with catchy slogans to attract the voters. The ANP candidates, who are contesting the election with the election symbol of "lantern" are eulogising the services of late Pakhtun freedom fighter Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, adoringly called Bacha Khan, who preached the philosophy of non-violence.
By writing this slogan on the red party flag and caps, the ANP supporters recall the services of their leader to seek votes from the electorate. A young activist of ANP, Akbar Khan, wearing a red cap inscribed with the slogan "Bacha khani pakar da" maintained that Bacha Khan promoted nonviolence through his peaceful struggle. "By raising this slogan, we ask our supporters to take part in the political activities with decency," he added. "Bacha khani pakar da" simply means we need to follow the way of Bacha Khan.
Those chanting the slogan "Imran khani pakar da" have their own arguments. It means we want to follow the path being shown to us by the PTI founder Imran Khan. The young supporters of PTI praised the philosophy of all Pakhtun and Sindhi leaders such as Bacha Khan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, but accused their sons and daughters of ignoring the philosophy of their forefathers.
"How can a person ask others to follow in the footsteps of his father or grandfather when he himself is not doing so," said Sher Mohammad, who was distributing PTI flags among the activists and supporters of the party. He argued that the youth was now mature enough and they did not like to vote for the politicians promoting their own vested interests. Defending the PTI's slogan, he said that his party leadership was committed to rooting out corruption and ensuring good governance besides giving opportunities to all citizens. "Through this slogan, we are conveying the message that PTI


Golra Sharif: Influential Islamic scholar throws weight behind PTI
Dunya News, $8^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
PML-N picks replacement candidate for Maryam
Nawaz
Gulf News, 7h July, 2018

## Third term was full of

 challenges for Nawaz Sharif, mostly from within Hindustan Times, $7^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018Pakistan's Sharif says ready to face 10 years imprisonment sentenced by court
Xinhua News, $7^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
wants equal opportunities for the people in all fields including politics. Imran Khan did not distribute tickets among his family members," he pointed out.
The supporters of the MMA are also trying to woo the voters. Their slogan "Na Bacha khani pakar da, Na Imran khani pakar da, Musalmani pakar da" means we neither need the way of Bacha Khan nor Imran Khan and instead we want the way of the Muslims. The MMA activists are urging the people to vote for the candidates of the five-party religio-political alliance to establish the Islamic system of government. They said Islam guaranteed equal rights to all the people including the women and members of the minority groups. Defending the MMA, an activist Khushdil Khan said that Muslims should seek guidance from the Holy Quran instead of following man-made philosophies.
It remains to be seen how far these three different slogans would impress voters to vote for ANP, PTI or MMA. More than the slogans though, voters would keep in mind the past performance of the governments of the three rival parties and whether the leadership of ANP, PTI and MMA could be believed to deliver on their promises.

ISLAMABAD: An influential Islamic cleric Sajjada Nasheen Pir Nizamud Din Jami has put his weight behind Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan ahead of General Elections 2018. As per details, Khan met Jami at his residence in Golra Sharif. Jami has also urged other clerics to support the cause of Imran Khan. Later, Khan talked to media and stated that he does not know when Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz will return to country.
Poll body issues directives to halt printing of ballot papers from constituencies from where Sharif's daughter and her husband were to contest Lahore: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Saturday decided on the election candidates to replace former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter, Maryam Nawaz, who was disqualified from contesting the polls in the Avenfield reference verdict. The party has issued tickets to its Lahore wing president Ali Pervez Malik for NA-127, one of the constituencies Maryam Nawaz was to contest from before she was disqualified, Geo News reported. For the provincial Assembly seat of PP-173 (Nankana Sahib), Irfan Shafi Khokhar will now be contesting in her place on the PML-N ticket. On Friday, the accountability court hearing the Avenfield reference, related to the Sharif family's purchase of upscale London flats, sentenced the former prime minister to 10 years in prison and fined him $\$ 10$ million. The reference is one of the several corruption cases filed against him and his children by the anti-corruption body on the Supreme Court's directives in the last year's Panamagate verdict. Maryam was sentenced to seven years and was fined $\$ 2.6$ million. Her husband and PML-N lawmaker Captain (retd) Mohammad Safdar Awan was handed a year in jail. Earlier in the day, the poll body issued directives to halt the printing of ballot papers from the constituencies from where Maryam Nawaz and Safdar were to contest. The electoral body stated that Maryam Nawaz's name will be removed from the ballot papers of NA-127 Lahore while Safdar's name will be removed from NA-14 Mansehra. New ballot papers of both constituencies will be printed later after receiving a court order, the report said.
Nawaz Sharif began his stint term as prime minister of Pakistan in June 2013. Since he was sworn in for a third term as prime minister in June 2013, Nawaz Sharif faced a number of challenges to himself and his government - and almost all of them from within.
Though PML-N secured a majority in the polls five years ago and his government performed well in terms of the economy and the overall security situation, there were continuous challenges to his leadership from political opponents, egged on by the security establishment.
A year in power, the government was under siege, thanks to a sit-in opposite Parliament organised by Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf and Tahirul Qadri's Pakistan Awami Tehreek. It lasted four months and only ended after a terror attack on an army-run school in Peshawar in December 2014 that killed nearly 150 people. By that time, relations between Sharif and the military leadership had started to deteriorate and there were suspicions the powerful army was behind the 'dharna' to put pressure on the Sharif government, which had tried to adopt an independent foreign policy. While the army launched a full-fledged military operation in the tribal areas in 2015, it took the opportunity to expand its activities into other spheres as well. Then army chief Gen Raheel Sharif rescued his mentor Pervez Musharraf from court cases and had him flown out of Pakistan. A key bone of contention between the army and the civilian government was control of foreign policy. The army did not take kindly to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lahore and Sharif's peace efforts with Afghanistan and Iran.

ISLAMABAD, July 7 (Xinhua) -- Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that he was ready to face the 10 -year imprisonment, which he said was a punishment for his struggle to free the people of the country from the "slavery imposed on them by some generals and judges."Sharif, who is in London to attend his wife battling cancer, said on Friday that he would come back to Pakistan to face imprisonment after his wife feels better, but did not give any timeframe of his return. Sharif was sentenced on corruption charges by a court in Islamabad, which said that the former chief of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party and his family owned assets beyond known means and could not prove their claims of making the assets with legitimate money. The court also imposed a fine of 8 million pounds ( 10.63 million U.S. dollars) on Sharif and ordered to confiscate his apartments in London, which is said to be made with the corruption money in 1994. The judge also sentenced Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz seven years in prison for assisting his father in making offshore companies to hide their illegally earned money, and for forging documents presented in the court during the trail. Her husband Muhammad Safdar also got one year imprisonment in the same case. Sharif was removed from the office of prime minister in July 2017. He was also barred from holding any political office.
Following he verdict, PML-N rejected the court's decision by calling it a great deal of "injustice," adding that the former prime minister became a victim of politically motivated decision by the


Nawaz Sharif's conviction boosts Imran Khan's chances of ascending to power
Hindustan Times, $7^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

## 7 including MMA

candidate injured in Bannu blast
DAWN News, $7^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

NA-20 Mardan-I to witness tough contest
The News, $7^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
judges.Sharif's younger brother, and his party's current president Shahbaz Sharif said that they will launch a campaign against the injustice and emerge as the victorious party in the forthcoming general elections, to be held on July 25. Nawaz Sharif told reporters in London that his legal troubles are the outcome of a military-backed conspiracy to take revenge from him for his efforts to bring the country's foreign policy under the control of civilian government. PML-N's rival political party Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf hailed the court's decision. Maryam Nawaz and Safdar were PML-N candidates for the forthcoming general elections, but the accountability court disqualified them to contest or hold any public office for 10 years. As per country's constitution, the convicts reserve the right to challenge the accountability court's decision in the High Court within 10 days of the decision. Shahbaz Sharif said the PML-N will avail its legal right to raise voice against the injustice and do all the procedures against the decision.

Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif was found guilty of corruption and sentenced to 10 years in prison, a major blow for his PML-N party ahead of general elections on July 25. Pakistan's former premier Nawaz Sharif suffered another blow when a court sentenced him for holding undeclared and expensive properties in London. Sharif was removed from office last year and later the Supreme Court barred him from holding public office for life. The verdict was not entirely unexpected and it was widely anticipated he would be sentenced for corruption. Sharif's daughter and likely successor, Maryam, and her husband, Muhammad Safdar, have also been sentenced. For Maryam, this verdict is a major blow as it ends her immediate chance of holding office. She was due to contest for elections from a safe seat in Lahore, Sharif's stronghold. Maryam, in the past year, has emerged as a fiery leader in defending her father's quest for civilian supremacy. Her critics, however, are aplenty. Not unlike India, Imran Khan's supporters, especially in the middle classes, castigate her as a symbol of dynastic politics. The verdict came 20 days before Pakistan is set to elect a new government. Sharif's party, that had been leading opinion polls until recently, faces a new challenge. With its key leaders sentenced and out of the race, the voters will not be mobilised. Opposition leader Imran Khan can claim victory as he had been pursuing this case vigorously in courts and on the streets. That Khan is backed by the establishment is a well-known fact but there is a sizeable segment of public opinion in Pakistan that considers the Sharif dynasty a venal representation of old politics of privilege and patronage. It is a separate matter that in recent weeks, Khan has been accepting defectors from Sharif's party to boost his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's chances of forming a coalition government.
Currently, it is Sharif's younger brother Shehbaz who is leading the race and is a contender for the PM's slot. He rejected the verdict and hours later Sharif also expressed his strong reservations about the verdict. The setback will certainly garner a sympathy wave within Sharif's voter base. But it is not likely to influence swing voters who may conclude that power and ability to distribute patronage may slip away from the Sharifs. In short, this is good news for Khan, whose chances of rising to power have increased manifold. Sharif's imminent return, unless he changes his decision, is likely to escalate political tensions. Whether in jail or outside, he will be a force to reckon with. In fact, his presence in Pakistan may give hope to PML-N workers and candidates. But one thing is clear: he is not returning to power anytime soon. If anything the polarisation between the PML-N and the establishment is the last thing Pakistan needs, when it needs to focus on challenges faced by the economy and a transition to a new elected government is a few weeks away.

At least seven people including the candidate of Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA) were injured when his convoy came under bomb attack in Bannu on Saturday July $7^{\text {th }}$, DawnNewsTV reported. According to police, the MMA's candidate from the PK-89 constituency, Sherin Malik was campaigning for elections in Takhti Kheil area of Bannu when a blast occurred targeting his convoy.
The MMA leader along with six other people suffered injuries and were rushed to nearby DHQ hospital. According to police, the explosive was planted in a motorcycle which was detonated remotely. There has been no immediate claim by any militant groups for the blast. Earlier this month, at least 10 people were injured in a blast at the election office of a Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) candidate in Razmak tehsil of North Waziristan tribal district.

MARDAN: A tough competition is expected among PTI's Mujahid Khan, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) candidate Maulana Attaur Rehman and Khwaja Mohammad Khan Hoti of PPP for NA-20 Mardan-I, the former NA-11 (Mardan-III). The constituency has 430,538 registered voters, including 181,551 female voters. About 353 polling stations have been established in the constituency.

In the last five years 101,253 more voters were registered in this constituency which was formerly known as NA-11 (Mardan-III). The name was changed to NA-20 (Mardan-I) after the delimitation in 2018. In the 2002 general election, Maulana Attaur Rehman of the MMA won this seat by securing 51,918 votes. Awami National Party (ANP) candidate Habibullah Khan had got 14,462 votes and PTI's Dr Mohammad Afzal Khan had polled 5,923 votes.
In the 2008 general election, Khanzada Khan of PPP secured 20,896 and emerged victorious seat while Maulana Tajul Ameen Jabal of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) secured 18,155 votes. In the 2013 general election, Mujahid Khan of PTI was declared the winner. He had polled '38,233. PPP's Khanzada Khan had secured 26,928 and JUI-F's Imadullah Yousafzai had got 26,623 votes. JI candidate, Gul Nawaz Khan, who has now joined the ANP, had secured 15,536 votes and ANP's Inayat Khan had got 11,506.
Presently, five candidates are contesting the election from NA-20. However an absorbing contest is expected among PTI's.
Mujahid Khan and PPP's Khwaja Hoti, MMA's Maulana Attaur Rehman and ANP's Gul Nawaz Khan. Akhtar Nawaz is the candidate of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz for this seat. The PTI workers claimed that 101,253 new voters were registered in this constituency and majority of them would vote for the PTI candidate. While the PPP, MMA and ANP workers and supporters claimed that PTI

had failed to fulfil their promises in the last five years so the voters would cast their votes in favour of their party candidates.
ISLAMABAD: Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari, sister of PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, on Saturday accused the rival PTI of falsifying advertisements despite poor delivery in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In a Twitter statement, Bakhtawar said only delivery in the PTI-led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had been money it had donated to seminaries. "PTI falsifying advertisements because the fact is they haven't delivered in KPK. Only delivery has been money to madrassas. You can fool Facebook but you cannot fool the residents. Name changing a university does not make it new either \#PTIFail," she tweeted.
In a second tweet containing a video, Bakhtwar invited people to visit Shaheed Benazirabad district, previously known as Nawabshah, to witness the real change. "We welcome people in Shaheed Benazirabad. We don't falsify. Our early learning centres, district school, medical college, teacher training, 1st girls cadet college, norin cancer hospital, NICVD, water filtration plants \& sewerage treatment plants exist on earth not imagination," she wrote. "Thalessima centre, Benazir girls college, Benazir District school, SMBB medical uni, People's Uni of Medical \& Health Sciences, 300 bed Mother \& Neonatal child care hospital are just the developments that l've visited so much 4 PTI to learn from just in \#Nawabshah \#PPPDelivered," she added.
PESHAWAR: At least 23 candidates, including former parliamentarians who are contesting for the National Assembly seats in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the adjoining tribal districts have been allotted the election symbol of 'jeep'. As per the final list issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), another 47 candidates are contesting for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly seats with 'jeep' as their election symbol. The 'jeep' symbol is under discussion in the mainstream and social media after its allotment to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) dissidents, including former interior minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan and former provincial minister Zaeem Qadri. After the allotment of the symbol to the PML-N dissidents, the party leader Maryam Nawaz had alleged that the symbol of 'jeep' was becoming the symbol of 'aliens' and 'khalai makhlooq'. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the jeep election symbol was also allotted to former speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Bakht Jehan Khan, who belongs to the Jamaat-i-Islami, is running for PK-20 Buner-I.
Bakht Jehan Khan is contesting the general election 2018 as an independent candidate after the local unit of Jamaat-e-Islami and JUI-F failed to reach agreement on the nomination of a joint candidate to contest from the platform of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) ticket. The jeep symbol was also allotted to former MMA lawmaker Muhammad Zakir Shah, who is also contesting the election as an independent candidate from PK-76 Peshawar. According to the ECP's list uploaded on its website, the jeep symbol has been allotted to 23 candidates contesting for National Assembly seats from KP and erstwhile Fata, now called tribal districts after the merger with KP.
The candidates who are contesting the election for the National Assembly seats on the jeep symbol include Shahzad Khan for NA-4 Swat, Mubarak Jan for NA-7 Lower Dir, Muhammad Saeed for NA12 Battagram, Goshen Zaman for NA-14, Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob for NA-15 Abbottabad, Muhammad Rohail for NA-16 Abbottabad, Fazal Akram for NA-18 Swabi, Naveed Ali for NA-27 Peshawar, Rohullah from NA-31 Peshawar, Shamsur Rehman Khattak from NA-34 Karak, Muhammad Ayub Khan from NA-37 Tank, Syed Hasnain Mohiyuddin from NA-38 Dara Ismail Khan, Asmatullah from NA-39 Dera Ismail Khan, Maubar Khan from NA-40 Bajaur tribal district, Hafeezur Rehman from NA-41 Mohmand tribal district, Anwar Khan from NA-44 Khyber tribal district, Khayal Marjan from NA-45 central Kurram tribal district, Syed Irshad Hussain from NA-46 Kurram tribal district, Pir Muhammad Awal Shah from NA-48 North Waziristan, Zahoor Khan from NA-49 South Waziristan, Javed Iqbal from NA-50 South Waziristan and Baz Gul from NA-51 tribal subdivisions (former Frontier Region) Tank.
PML-N workers protest court verdict DAWN News, $7^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Powerful being held
accountable for first time:
Imran
The Nation, $7^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

PESHAWAR: Reacting to the conviction of ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam Nawaz and her husband Capt retired Safdar by an accountability court, the party's workers staged demonstrations in Charsadda, Khyber Agency and other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa against the verdict, describing it an attempt to keep PML-N out of the election process.
Immediately after the verdict, the PML-N workers gathered outside the Peshawar Press Club, holding banners and placards inscribed with slogans against the court's decision. The protesters were led by former MPA Sobia Shahid, provincial vice president Rashid Mehmood and PK-67 candidate Fazalullah Daudzai. The protesters also set on fire the flag of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf and shouted slogans against Imran Khan. They also raised the party's slogan of 'give respect to vote'. The protesters alleged that the PML-N leaders had committed no crime but they were convicted under a well-planned conspiracy to keep the party out of polls. "We reject the court's decision. We will agitate as and when the top leadership issues instructions to us," warned a protester. "Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz are in the hearts of people and no one can remove them from political scene through force," Sobia Shahid said.
During a demonstration in Charsadda, enraged PML-N leaders and workers set tyres on fire and blocked road for vehicular traffic at Farooq Azam Chowk. They also announced a mass arrest movement against the court decision. Addressing the protesters, PML-N district president Mian Humayun Shah Kakakhel and others alleged that the verdict was unjust.
TIMERGARA/SWAT: PTI Chairman Imran Khan, while commenting on the court verdict against the Sharif family, has said that the powerful are being held accountable for the first time in Pakistan. Addressing a rally in Swat on Friday, Imran said the children of Nawaz Sharif had given contradictory statements previously about owning apartments in London. He stated that Nawaz's son had accepted ownership of the London properties on television. Imran also lamented the lodging of several cases against him in a bid to silence his struggle in exposing the Sharif family's corruption.


Nisar says wanted to save Nawaz from Avenfield fallout
The News, $7^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Legal experts term verdict 'full of contradictions'
The Express Tribune, $7^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Claiming that Nawaz and Asif Zardari destroyed state institutions, Imran said he joined politics to rid the country of corruption.
Earlier, speaking at a rally in Lower Dir before the Avenfield reference verdict was announced, Imran said that Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam-Fazl chief Fazlur Rahman was like a magnet who sticks to every government but this time we won't let him do so. He questioned whether Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) found no one else other than JUI-F for alliance, saying on one hand, the JI filed a writ petition against corruption against Nawaz Sharif while on the other hand it withdrew its candidate against Shehbaz Sharif in Swat.
About ANP, he said that Asfandyar Wali Khan claimed that no one could prove corruption of a single penny against him, asking him (Asfandyar) to tell about 'easy load'. He said that on July 25, the corrupt mafia would be defeated forever. He said the participation of a large number of people in PTI processions was a proof that they were satisfied with its performance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
RAWALPINDI: Former interior minister Chaudhry Nisar on Saturday said that he had wanted to save party supremo Nawaz Sharif from facing a situation such as Avenfield verdict. Nawaz was sentenced to a total of 11 years in prison and slapped with an $£ 8$ million fine (Rs1.3 billion) in the Avenfield properties reference on Friday while his daughter Maryam was sentenced to eight years with a $£ 2$ million fine (Rs 335 million).
Addressing a rally, Nisar, who has had strained relations with top party leadership since over a year, once again complained of the former premier's disloyalty to him. "Served Nawaz for 34 years [but still] he said I should submit an application and then I will get a ticket [to contest election]," he said. The former interior minister also said that he was contesting from four constituencies on the back of masses' support and urged them to remember the 'Jeep' symbol. He said that he was running in the election with the support of God's forces. Nisar decided to contest as independent candidate after he was asked by the PML-N leadership to formally apply for the party ticket to contest the upcoming general election. The disgruntled PML-N leader will be contesting elections from constituencies NA63, NA-59, PP-10 and PP-12.
ISLAMABAD: In the wake of delayed but historic verdict, the legal minds in the country have termed the accountability court's ruling "full of contradictions". Renowned lawyer Faisal Siddiqui told The Express Tribune that it is a judgment "full of contradictions", that relies on inadmissible evidence and draws inferences about evidences based upon unproven facts. Moreover, it's a misapplication of law, he stressed.
Siddiqui believes that the verdict will go down in the judicial history as a horrible example of miscarriage of justice. He wonders that at one point the court held that corruption could not be proved in the ownership of flats, but former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is being convicted for possession of the same apartments, whose source of purchase has not been proved - a classic contradiction.
Likewise, former attorney general for Pakistan Ashtar Ausaf Ali contends that the judgment cannot be sustained, adding that three basic questions were involved in the matter. "Firstly, whether there was any corruption. Second, was the money transferred to London? Third, who was the owner of the flats when it was transferred to Neilson and Nescol and how money was paid to the original owner and by whom?
However, Barrister Asad Rahim Khan, commenting on the judgment, said that questions of law answered by this decision - including those relating to burden of proof, white collar crime, and what constitutes evidence - should be considered in depth at each stage of appeal, so that we gain clarity in our jurisprudence one way or another. Also, accountability starting from the top should always be welcomed, it must now extend to all institutions as well, he adds. The legal experts believe that now all eyes are on the Islamabad High Court (IHC), wherein appeal against the verdict would be filed in the next 10 days. They say it would be interesting to see which two IHC judges will be part of the division bench to take up Sharif's appeal in the next couple of weeks.
According to the proposed roster, IHC judges Justice Aamar Farooq, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb will be part of bench which will hear the cases in the next two weeks. Moreover, it is expected that the appeal would be fixed before two of them. Interestingly, three other judges, including the IHC CJ, would be on summer vacations in the ongoing month. A senior lawyer says that the judgment is so weak that it would be suspended.
In addition to it, IHC senior judge Justice Shaukat Aziz will also be on work from July 9 to August 10. Due to summer vacations, the IHC CJ will not be part of the bench. In this scenario it seems that Siddiqui is likely to hear the appeal, who may suspend the judgment, he added. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawyer Hamid Khan explained that after the conviction they could not be given protective bail. They would have to first file an appeal against the decision and then they could file a writ petition, seeking suspension of the sentence.
However, it is prerequisite for them to personally appear before the court if they file for suspension of sentence petition which is almost like a bail, he revealed. Paksitan Peoples Party leader Khursheed Shah also expressed his opinion saying that the decision could have been announced three months earlier rather than this time when elections are on the verge. He said let the people decide on the election day - July 25 - and everything will be clear on that day.
Senior lawyer Salman Akram Raja said they could get protective custody on plea to file appeal before the court in 10 days. They will have to file a writ petition for protection against the arrest in order to enable them to file an appeal in the high court against the decision. There are precedents available in which protective bails were granted on pleas. The petitioners should be allowed to reach the court. Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA) President Anwarul Haq Pannu said no protective bail could be granted to the convicts. Senior advocate Azhar Siddique said the Sharif

We're coming back on
Friday, says Maryam
The Express Tribune, $7^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Previous govt listened to only three parties: BAP
The Express Tribune, $7^{\text {h }}$ July, 2018

## CM Marri optimistic about

 huge voter turnoutThe Express Tribune, $7^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
family has been awarded less punishment, adding that they should be given 14 years imprisonment. He said PML-N's card to get public sympathy will not work this time as the people are fully aware. Senior lawyer Aftab Bajwa said the people will not support any 'daku' (dacoit) in this election.
Deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif and daughter Maryam Nawaz will return to the country on Friday, a day after the duo were sentenced to jail and fined by an accountability court in the Avenfield case. Maryam announced the decision to return while talking to media persons in London on Saturday evening.
According to the former first daughter, the verdict will be challenged in the higher court keeping in view the legal requirements. Earlier today, the The accountability court that issued the verdict issued arrest warrants for Nawaz, Maryam and her husband Capt (retd) Safdar. A copy of the judgment and arrest warrants is with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) as it readies itself to arrest Sharif and Maryam upon their arrival in the country.
The bureau also clarified the judgment announced yesterday, stating that the offence of amassing assets beyond known sources of income which prima facie come under the preview of National Accountability Ordinance 1999 are corruption and corrupt practice. An investigation team has been sent to arrest Safdar after his arrest warrants were received. NAB is coordinating with KhyberPakhtunkhwa government in the regard, NAB's spokesperson confirmed.
On Friday, in a verdict which will echo across the political landscape of Pakistan for decades, the accountability court hearing the Avenfield reference sentenced Sharif to 10-years imprisonment and Maryam to seven years. Safdar, was also sentenced to a year in prison. Nawaz was further fined eight million pound sterling and Maryam was slapped with a two million pound fine. The court also ordered their properties to be forfeited in favour of the federal government. Maryam's sentence includes a year in prison due to her involvement in the Calibri font scandal.
Nawaz was convicted under Section $9(a)(5)$ of the NAB ordinance, while Maryam violated Section $9(a)(12)$. The Avenfield properties will be confiscated as per the orders of the court. An extra year's imprisonment under Serial number two of Scheduled offences under NAB's law was given to the duo. Interestingly, Nawaz has been acquitted under Section 9(a)(4) of the ordinance, which states "if he by corrupt, dishonest, or illegal means, obtains or seeks to obtain for himself, or for his spouse or dependents or any other person, any property, valuable thing, or pecuniary advantage" then the accused is corrupt. However, the former premier has not been charged for corruption.

QUETTA: Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) President Jam Kamal has said that the neglecting behaviour of the previous federal government towards the province forced political leaders to unite on one platform."The previous PML-N government listened to only three political parties -National Party, Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl - while the rest of the parties and leaders were completely ignored by the Centre," said Kamal while addressing a public rally in his constituency NA-272 Lasbela-Gwadar on Friday. Senior leaders of BAP, including former minister Prince Ahmed Ali, was also present.
On Kamal-Bhootani alliance in Lasbela, the BAP president said, "Political opponents always created differences among the Jams and the Bhootanis, but in the interest of the people of Lasbela and Hub, we are working on it and soon an alliance will be announced." "Lasbela district is the highest taxpaying city of Balochistan. The city's funds had been transferred to the Centre, and due to its annoying behaviour today Lasbela is deprived of all basic facilities."
Slamming NP over failing to deliver, the BAP president said, "Despite having majority we allowed NP to take over gifted Lasbela, but during the two-and-a-half years' rule the party didn't announce any development programme for the people of Lasbela. "BAP will fulfil its pledge of bringing good governance, providing health facilities and spreading education across Balochistan." He said that "today's rally" is a "rigid answer" to all those criticising BAP.
Addressing the public rally, BAP candidate for PB-49 seat Sardar Saleh Bhootani said, "CPEC is a promise with the people of Balochistan that better days have yet to come but the heart of CPEC-Gwadar- is still deprived of drinking water. "Political magicians are attempting to lure people of Lasbela, but Jam and Bhootanis are united on one platform - BAP, which is annoying our opponents."
QUETTA: Caretaker Balochistan Chief Minister Alauddin Marri has expressed optimism about a large voter turnout during the upcoming elections, saying improved law and order situation in the province is enough to ensure a maximum number of people come out of their homes and vote.
"Free and fair elections is the priority of the interim government in Balochistan and we have been utilising all resources at our disposal to implement the rules and regulations of the Election Commission of Pakistan," said the caretaker chief minister while addressing a press conference at the Sarawan Press Club in Mastung on Friday.
He urged the people of Balochistan to come out of their homes on July 25 and fulfill their national responsibility by casting their votes. To a query regarding allegations against him, Marri said, "Allegations are a part of the political game but instead of focusing on allegations we are moving forward and utilising our earnest efforts in revamping the plight of the government departments."
On electricity shortage and the appalling agriculture industry in the province, the interim said, "Our provincial economy relies on the agriculture sector but unfortunately electricity shortage and unannounced load-shedding have increased farmers' woes.
"Efforts to address the farmers' concerns are under way and the provincial government has directed Quetta Electric Supply Company to end unannounced load-shedding." Separately, Chief Minister Marri visited Ghous Bakhsh Raisani Memorial Hospital and directed the authorities to revamp the healthcare condition of the government hospital .

## Ali Pervaiz replaces Maryam as NA-127 candidate <br> Dunya News, $7^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Tehreek-e-Labbaik: New
far right campaigns
against 'blasphemy'
Al Jazeera News, $6^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

## The boss of Pakistan's

ruling party is sentenced
to ten years in jail
The Economist, 64 July, 2018

LAHORE : Following the Avenfield verdict against Maryam nawaz, PML-N Lahore president Pervaiz Malik's son Ali Pervaiz was awarded the party ticket for NA-127 constituency.
PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif awarded tickets to the new candidates. Irfan Shafi Khokhar has been allotted the ticket for PP-173. Previously, Maryam Nawaz was contesting the election from both the seats. On the other hand, Capt (redt) Safdar's brother Mohammad Sajjad will contest election in NA-14, Mansehra in his place.
On July 6, accountability court jailed former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif, daughter Maryam Nawaz and son-in-law Captain (r) Muhammad Safdar for 10, 7 and 1 year respectively. Announcing verdict judge, Muhammad Bashir ruled that the Avenfield apartments of the Sharif family shall be seized by the federal government.
The judge while awarding 10 years imprisonment to Nawaz Sharif also imposed an eight million pound (Rs1.2billion) fine, while a fine of two million pound (Rs322 million) has been imposed on his daughter Maryam Nawaz . The court also issued permanent arrest warrants of ex-PM's sons Hassan Nawaz and Hussain Nawaz.

Hardline party, which formed last year, rallies support by focusing its political messaging on religious ideology. Lahore, Pakistan - The narrow streets of Lahore's Mazang neighbourhood echo with the sounds of dozens of young men, as someone showers them with rose petals. They wind their way through this congested, working-class quarter in Pakistan's second city, some on foot, others mounted on motorcycles. "Labbaik, labbaik, labbaik ya Rasool Allah!" they chant, raising their arms. "We stand, we stand, we stand with you, O Allah's prophet!" Waving brightly coloured green flags, they continue, in tune with an election song: "Hang them, hang them!". Meet the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), Pakistan's newest hardline religious party, which calls for blasphemers to be put to death and celebrates those who have murdered the alleged perpetrators. A year ago, this kind of a political rally, in the heart of the political base of Pakistan's ruling party, would have been unthinkable. The PML-N has governed the country for the last five years and its most populous province, Punjab, for a decade. But as Pakistan gears up for a general election in late July, the political environment is far from predictable. With the PML-N's leadership facing a slew of corruption cases and what it terms "political engineering", and as media censorship by the country's military increases, new entrants have emerged onto the political scene.
Nawaz Sharif says it is all an army-inspired ploy to prevent his PML-N winning this month's election. EARLY on the morning of July 6th reporters began to assemble their tripods outside Avenfield House, a posh apartment block on London's Park Lane. The air of wealthy anonymity that hangs around the red-stone building belies its notoriety; in Pakistan, there are few addresses more famous. The assembled hacks were hoping to catch sight of the alleged owner of flats 16, 16a, 17 and 17a: Pakistan's former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif. The four apartments are thought to have been knocked into one, and Mr Sharif is thought to be staying inside it. But it was from his son's nearby office that he gave his response to the verdict that Pakistan's National Accountability Bureau (NAB), an anti-graft court, delivered later in the day, as to whether Mr Sharif and his family paid for the property with money that they had not properly disclosed to the Pakistani authorities. The NABpronounced "nab"-found Mr Sharif guilty just 19 days before a general election in which his party is fighting to remain in government. That leaves the 68 -year-old, thrice-ousted prime minister with a very difficult decision to make. The Panama Papers, a trove of documents leaked from a fancy law firm in 2016, suggested that Mr Sharif's family owned the flats, which would imply that that they had income that they had not declared to the relevant authorities in Pakistan. Mr Sharif's lawyers claimed that a Qatari investment fund had transferred the property to his children in 2006 to pay back a debt owed to his father, Mian Muhammad Sharif. The letter he proffered testifying to the deal, from a shy Qatari prince, was derided as a "joke" by Imran Khan, the leader of Pakistan's main opposition party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The NAB seems to agree.
Nevertheless, the NAB verdict strikes harder than Mr Sharif would have hoped. The ten-year prison sentence and $£ 8 \mathrm{~m}(\$ 10.6 \mathrm{~m})$ fine he received raised few eyebrows. But the 7 -year sentence given to his daughter and presumed political heir, Maryam (who must also pay a $£ 2 \mathrm{~m}$ fine) was "unexpectedly harsh", says Zahid Hussain, a columnist. That she can no longer contest the vote on July 25th may mean that control of the party shifts towards Shahbaz, Mr Sharif's brother and the chief minister of Pakistan's most populous province, Punjab, with whom he has a somewhat testy relationship. Mr Sharif is expected to appeal, focusing largely on procedural anomalies. His lawyer, Khawaja Haris, briefly quit the case, saying that the arbitrary rush to conclude the trial-handily, for Mr Sharif's enemies, just before the election-was undermining its integrity. Suspicions that the die was cast against Mr Sharif from the beginning were not allayed by the details of the judgment, which relied heavily on the NAB's unusual rules, in which a defendant is assumed guilty unless proven otherwise. "It was difficult to establish" ownership of the flats, the 174-page document admitted. Mr Sharif argues that Pakistan's judiciary is working in tandem with the army to remove him from the political stage. The NAB has become "a puppet of the establishment", says one lawyer, who did not want to be quoted by name. The bureau's chairman drew ridicule during Mr Sharif's trial by launching an investigation into whether the ex-PM had laundered almost $\$ 5 \mathrm{bn}$ through India as prime minister: the case appeared to rest on a wildly erroneous newspaper article. At any rate, the NAB, like the rest of the Pakistani judicial system, has relentlessly focused on the PML-N. It arrested Mr Sharif's private secretary this week (in order to "pull out each of his fingernails to compromise Mr Sharif", says the shy lawyer), and earlier this month collared a PML-N candidate just hours after he announced he would contest the elections against Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, a former top lieutenant who has since split with Mr Sharif.
The verdict's electoral impact hinges on what Mr Sharif does next. He has said he will return to Pakistan from London to "face jail"-but only after his wife, Kulsoom, who is being treated for throat cancer in London, regains consciousness. Mr Sharif's recent absence from the campaign trail seems


Pakistan anti-graft body to delay arrest of candidates till after polls Hindustan Times, $6^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

## 25 transgenders to be

among poll observers in Pakistan
Hindustan Times, $6^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
to be hurting the PML-N. The latest sounding by Gallup, a polling firm, shows the PTI has closed a previously sizeable gap and is now level pegging with Mr Sharif's party. Pictures of Mr Sharif in handcuffs would electrify supporters. And risking prison by returning to Pakistan would bolster his claim to be a selfless defender of democracy from military meddling, rather than a self-serving politician caught with his beak in the till. Lawyers doubt the NAB would grant Mr Sharif bail, however, preventing him from holding the kind of blood-and-thunder rallies that are probably needed to tilt the race back in the PML-N's favour. He might instead suffer the indignity of watching his party lose from behind bars. In other words, if he stays in London, the party will suffer; if he returns, he will. Look through the window of a grand apartment in central London over the next few days, and you might spot a politician pacing up and down.
Following the verdict in Avenfield corruption case, former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam has been barred from contesting the elections to the National Assembly. Maryam Nawaz on Friday said that attempts were being made to stop her father and deposed prime ministrer Nawaz Sharif from returning to Pakistan and appealed to party cadres to be positive ahead of the July 25 elections when the "real verdict" would be revealed. A Pakistan accountability court on Friday sentenced Sharif to 10 years in prison in one of the three corruption cases against him in the highprofile Panama Papers scandal and fined 8 million pound (USD 10 million). Maryam, considered the heir apparent of Sharif, also received a 7-year sentence with a 2-million-pound fine (USD 2.6 million), while her husband Captain (retd) Safdar was sentenced to one year.
Following the verdict, Maryam has been barred from contesting the elections from Lahore to the National Assembly. Maryam, 44, also said that in the Avenfield case, her father was returning and attempts were being made to stop him. In a tweet, she stated that "it is a matter of happiness for the Pakistani people, for whom, a leader is willing to take an undeterred stand and willing to preserve the sanctity of the voting system". She further reiterated that the real verdict shall be revealed to the public on July 25, the day when general elections shall be held in the country. "This isn't new for Nawaz Sharif. He has undergone disqualification and life imprisonment before," she said in a tweet.
Maryam took to Twitter to state that "forces" have never been successful in breaking Sharif's resolve in the face of adversity. "PML-N's lions, remember this! Do not get unsettled no matter what the verdict is," she wrote. "All of this is not new for your Nawaz Sharif, he has faced exile, disqualification, and life imprisonment (sentence) in the past." She further said that it was positive that there is one political leader who is steadfast in his resolve to protect the sanctity of the vote. "It is positive that there is a leader who, for you, for this country, and for your vote's sanctity is steadfast in his resolve and is ready to make any sacrifice for the same," Maryam said, who is currently in the UK along with her father to be with her ailing mother Kulsoom Nawaz. The deposed prime minister's daughter further said that Sharif had chosen his path despite knowing it was not easy to tread on it. "He (Nawaz) chose this path despite being aware that it was not easy and a price for it had to be paid," she said, adding that the PML-N supremo paid a 'heavy price' for his decision. "The (real) decision will be made on July 25," Maryam said in a reference to the upcoming General Elections 2018. "We are facing the snakes hiding in the democratic system." "Remember the faces of the conspirators and pawns on July 25 ," she said, adding it was 'now or never.' "God willing, victory awaits you," she concluded.

National Accountability Bureau has decided to show restraint in ongoing cases till the elections to dispel the impression of alleged prejudice on the part of the bureau in pending cases.
Pakistan's anti-corruption watchdog has announced it will put any arrests of candidates in the general elections on hold till the election day on July 25, and cease ongoing anti-graft probes against all politicians. The move by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) drew a mixed reaction, with many criticising it. NAB also announced on Wednesday it was halting probes into cases against former foreign minister Khawaja Asif and other former provincial and state ministers from the PMLN party. All investigations, the bureau said, will resume after July 25. The executive board of NAB decided to put these cases on hold because no breakthroughs were expected till July 25, a spokesperson said. "NAB wants to make it clear that it has nothing to do with politics and elections. The decision to put off investigations into pending cases against politicians has been made to reflect this fact," said a statement issued after the executive board held a meeting. The NAB spokesperson added the bureau will comply with all court orders in letter and spirit during this period after conducting due diligence. He said the executive board, NAB's highest decision-making body, had decided to show restraint in ongoing cases till the elections to dispel the impression of alleged prejudice on the part of the bureau in pending cases.
While some welcomed the decision, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf spokesman Fawad Chaudhry said it was a "clear violation" of the country's laws that don't bar any institution from arresting any individual involved in corruption "just because he or she is contesting elections". He said NAB needs to revisit its order
As election observers, they will observe and note down any violation of rights or acts of discrimination against vulnerable sections of society at polling stations during the polls.
A total of 75 people -25 from the transgender community, and an equal number of disabled people and women - have been appointed as observers for Pakistan's July 25 general election a private network of organisations working to monitor the polls. They were appointed by the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) at a training programme organised in collaboration with the Gender Interactive Alliance (GIA) in an attempt to make the electoral process more inclusive and participatory for vulnerable sections of society.
The move is also aimed at promoting human rights and active electoral participation of vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, transgender people and women. As election observers, they will observe and note down any violation of rights or acts of discrimination against vulnerable


The three-time rise and fall of Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif Gulf News, 6 th July, 2018
sections of society at polling stations during the polls. Any direct violations will be conveyed to presiding officers, while survey forms will be filled by the observers to report instances of political and electoral violence.
These forms will later be submitted to the Election Commission. Zahid Abdullah, project manager, said FAFEN has nearly 19,000 members who will monitor the elections. "Out of these 19,000 members, we have trained around 125 persons selected from across Pakistan to monitor and enhance the capacity of citizens belonging to vulnerable groups," he said..

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former premier was sentenced to 10 years in prison in the Avenfield case linked to the purchase of luxury London flats, by the accountability court on Friday. In the highly anticipated verdict deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was sentenced to 10-years imprisonment, his daughter Maryam to seven years and his son-law Muhammad Safdar to one year in prison. Nawaz has also been fined 8 million pounds for owning assets without declaration and for not cooperating with NAB while Maryam has been fined 2 million pounds. After the court decision, several opposition leaders and political rivals warmly welcomed the decision while Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders claimed that the decision was not made on the basis of justice. "For the first time in the history of Pakistan, a corrupt prime minister was first disqualified and now convicted and send to jail for 10 years. This is the real change and hope for the people" remarked Salaar Hasan, a university student. The court decision is seen as a major political setback in upcoming elections for PML-N which already lost public sympathy due to Nawaz Sharif's alleged corruption and criticism of state institutions.
"This critical court decision against Sharif family comes only 20 days before the elections which is quite disturbing and surprising for voters" said Madiha Khan, an International Relations lecturer in Islamabad. PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif rejected the verdict. Sharif's party Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) rejected the court verdict against Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam Nawaz and Mohammad Safdar.Reacting to the verdict during a press conference, Shahbaz Sharif rejected the decision terming it 'unjust' and "politically motivated". Shehbaz termed the decision "a dark chapter in Pakistan's history." He announced to challenge the decision in high court. "The timing of the verdict is an attempt to manipulate the election process," the former Punjab chief minister added.
PTI activists celebrate: As soon as the court decision was announced, activists of PTI showed victory signs and danced to celebrate the decision, sharing sweets with each other. "You don't have to be a PTI supporter to celebrate this verdict, you just have to be a Pakistani," said Farhan Khan, a member of PTI. Shandana Rehman, an Islamabad citizen, exclaimed that "Imran Khan may have his own flaws, but he promised this nation to root out corruption and crooked people and he delivered on that promise."
'Being held accountable' Lauding the court verdict, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan said that or the first time in the country's history "the powerful are being held accountable" and punished. "This is just the beginning. July 26 will see the dawn of 'Naya Pakistan' (new Pakistan)" Imran told his supporters while addressing supporters in Swat following the announcement of the Avenfield reference verdict against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and his family. Imran Khan said he was the first person to speak out against corruption in the country. His opposition party spearheaded the corruption campaign in Pakistan which first led to ouster of Nawaz Sharif by the Supreme Court on corruption charges and later barred from politics for life.

## Verdict impacts stocks

The political uncertainty regarding the decision concerning Nawaz Sharif on Friday was not taken well by the investors and other stakeholders of the Pakistani Stock Exchange which remained under pressure for the whole week. The index lost 129 points and closed at 40109 points. Analysts affirmed that the market requires stability, however added that the final decision would have no impact on the stocks in the long run.
Muzammil Aslam, CEO of Investment Company EFG Hermes, was quoted as saying by Geo News that, "Stock exchange is not fond of uncertainty". But Aslam was confident that "stocks will bounce back to their usual trading levels" once the uncertain situation is over.
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's anti-corruption court on Friday convicted ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in absentia and sentenced him to 10 years in prison, in what seemed to be the end of a long and tumultuous political career of the three-time leader. Sharif, 68, is in London with his daughter, Maryam, was convicted after failing to prove a legal source of income for buying several luxury flats in the 1990s. Maryam was also convicted and sentenced to seven years in prison. Sharif was disqualified from office last year by the Supreme Court, which declared him "dishonest" for not disclosing a separate monthly income from a company owned by his son.
Here are some of the highlights of Sharif's career:
1949 - Nawaz Sharif is born into a Kashmiri family of industrialists in the eastern city of Lahore. He later graduates with a law degree from Punjab University and goes to work in the family steel business 1976 - Enters politics, joining the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) after the Sharif family steel business was nationalised under the government of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the beginning of a long political rivalry between the families. 1981 - Joins the Punjab provincial cabinet as finance minister, becoming Punjab's chief minister in 1985. The PML later split and Nawaz formed the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). 1990 - First elected prime minister. 1993 - Removed as prime minister by Pakistan's president. He is reinstated by Supreme Court but then resigns under pressure and his party loses elections to the Pakistan People's Party of Benazir Bhutto, daughter of Zulfiqar Bhutto.1997- Elected prime minister for second time.
During his term, Pakistan successfully tests nuclear weapons in response to regional rival India's atomic programme. 1999-Overthrown in a military coup by General Pervez Musharraf, the country's

fourth army takeover since independence in 1947. After the coup, he was convicted of corruption and given a life sentence for hijacking over an incident when he ordered Musharraf's plane not to land in Islamabad. 2000-2007 - Allowed to go into exile in Saudi Arabia in 2000 amid reports of a deal with the military, he was given a presidential pardon the day his family left. 2007 - Returns from exile to contest elections the next year as part of a political deal that ended Musharraf's military rule. 2008 - Loses election to the party of Benazir Bhutto, who was assassinated ahead of the polls. 2013 - Elected prime minister for third time. The PML-N sweeps back to power in an election the gives its allies a solid National Assembly majority. April 4, 2016 - The leaked Panama Papers show involvement of Sharif's family in offshore companies including two used to buy luxury homes in London. Oct. 28, 2016 - Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan threatens to paralyse the capital, Islamabad, with a "lockdown" of street protests unless demands for an independent investigation into the Panama revelations are met. Sharif denies any wrongdoing. Nov. 2, 2016 - Supreme Court agrees to set up a judicial commission to probe corruption allegations against Sharif, stemming from Panama Papers leaks. Khan backs down from lockdown threat. July 28, 2017 - Supreme Court declares Sharif disqualified from office for not declaring income from a company in United Arab Emirates, which was not in original Panama Papers revelations. The court also orders the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to open a criminal trial into ownership of the London flats along with several other Panama Papers revelations. April 13, 2018 - The Supreme Court further rules Sharif is banned from political office for life. July 6, 2018 - The NAB court convicts Sharif of corruption and sentences him in absentia to 10 years in prison.
Ali Begum: A symbol of grit and perseverance making history in a no woman's land
Express Tribune, $6^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
While there is no denying the fact that the expertise and contributions of men and women alike are sine qua non (essential) for the establishment of a prosperous and progressive society, it is also a grim and acrimonious reality that women in the tribal areas of Pakistan are excluded from the decision-making and nation-building processes.
This callous attitude towards women is leading us nowhere. Notwithstanding our patriarchal and ultra-conservative society where gender discrimination and a misogynistic mindset still prevail, there is a valiant and indomitable woman who is defying the stereotypes of a male-dominated tribal society.
Ali Begum, a woman who not only had an illustrious career in public service, but one who made it to Grade 22 of the highly competitive Pakistani bureaucratic hierarchy. She achieved this accolade by dint of her unflinching dedication and sagacity. Her name is a symbol of grit and perseverance amongst the women in tribal areas. Now, she is contesting the forthcoming General Elections from the NA-46 constituency in the Kurram Agency, where she has to compete with more than 25 male candidates.
What's more challenging for her is the fact that she is surrounded by powerful and seasoned male candidates like Sajid Turi, Syed Iqbal, Ibrar Jan and Irshad Hussain Turi, all vying for the same seat. Although all of her political rivals are equally strong and competent, yet she seems poised for this unprecedented competition against the twice-elected MNA Sajid Turi, who poses a daunting challenge to her goal. She knows that winning the seat against the powerful and influential male candidates is a hard nut to crack, nevertheless she is all set to break the status quo by becoming the first female public representative from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Her election campaign has gained momentum ahead of the fast-approaching schedule. Having served at different posts during her long service tenure, she doesn't face any problems in interacting with male and female voters alike. It's already a great deal of success for her to contest against male politicians, bearing in mind that precedence for events such as this is rare in Kurram - a part of erstwhile FATA. We are now at a critical juncture after the merger of FATA with KhyberPakhtunkhwa (K-P). Women in the tribal areas are craving empowerment and inclusion in the political set-up, and in a situation like this, no one other than Begum can contribute more to achieve that end. After all, the participation of women in political activities indubitably bodes well for this longneglected area.
If Begum is fortunate enough to make it to the National Assembly, it will be the biggest feat yet in the history of the tribal areas, where no woman has ever been elected to the Parliament of Pakistan. The odds are stacked against her, and it's not going to be a cakewalk for her to make history by becoming the first ever elected female parliamentarian from the tribal areas. That being said, men and women alike can be seen campaigning for this dauntless, magnanimous and judicious woman. The driving force of her election campaign is the women who foresee their ultimate hope of salvation and empowerment in Begum's charismatic personality. Women's outright participation in her election campaign could give her some sway in these much-awaited polls scheduled for July 25th.
Despite already having so much to her credit, Begum wants to do something for the women who haven't yet gotten the dividend of freedom and prosperity. For now, she faces an uphill task of knocking down her male political rivals in her constituency, before committing herself to the cause of women empowerment in this underdeveloped and relatively restive area.
Giving an interview to a local news channel, Begum said, "There comes a time when a person strives to better his or her own life and then that of one's family life. I have done both these tasks and now at the later stage my life is dedicated for the cause of development and enlightenment." Like her male counterparts, she too has vowed to change the political landscape of her constituency if she is lucky enough to be given representation in the upcoming General Elections. Given her past credentials, the best case scenario for this long-neglected area would indubitably be her election to the respective constituency. Begum has what it takes to be a visionary leader. Let's hope her participation in local politics ushers in a new era of awareness and enlightenment in the tribal areas.
PML-N leaders in NA-49
flay own candidate
DAWN News, $6^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
PESHAWAR: The PML-N leaders from South Waziristan have criticised their party candidate for NA-49 Dilawar Khan Mehsud for withdrawing his nomination papers in favour of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf candidate Dost Mohammad Khan. Addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club


District official assaulted
for removing banners
Express Tribune, 6 th July, 2018

Atif Khan failed to fix schools in home
constituency
Express Tribune, $6^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
on Thursday June 5, 2018, PML-N secretary information for Waziristan, Naqeebullah Mehsud demanded of the party leadership to issue a show-cause notice to Dilawar Khan for violating the party discipline. He said that PML-N workers rendered sacrifices for strengthening the party in the region but some people were bent upon damaging it for their personal gains. He said that workers did not have any complaint against PML-N district president Malik Ghani, but withdrawal of the party candidate disappointed them.

Mr Mehsud said that the party had issued ticket to Dilawar Khan to contest the forthcoming general elections from NA-49 constituency and workers had appreciated the decision, but the candidate disappointed them by leaving them halfway. Flanked by other local leaders of PML-N, Mr Meshud said that Dilawar Khan lost confidence of workers so he should not be allowed to use the name of PML-N for his personal interests any longer. He asked the PML-N leadership to expel him from the party as he had lost confidence of workers. The PML-N leader said that a delegation of the party would soon call on the top leadership to apprise it of the factual position so that necessary steps could be taken for reorganisation of the party in Waziristan.
LANDI KOTAL: Scores of students from Khyber region face difficulties in getting admission in colleges as the local administration has refused to issue domicile certificates to them on the old pattern. The students have passed their secondary school certificate examinations from the Peshawar Board few days ago. They are now aspiring for admission in colleges in Khyber and Peshawar for which presentation of domicile along with their educational qualification is must. The students said that they visited the offices of administration in Bara, Jamrud and Landi Kotal to get domicile certificate as the last date for submission of their admission documents was getting nearer.

Abbas Khan, who has passed his metric examination with good marks, told Dawn that the administration officials refused to issue him domicile forms as the pattern and procedure of the domicile had been changed after merger of tribal areas with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Accompanied by his other schoolmates, he said that the whole process of getting domicile required at least one month while they needed to submit their documents for admission in most of the colleges before the end of July.
Muqtadir Khan, another student, said that refusal to issue domicile to them on the old pattern would affect more than 1,000 students only in Landi Kotal sub-division. "The number could go further if students from Bara and Jamrud are also included in the list of aspirants for new domicile in the entire Khyber region," he said. Assistant Commissioner Niaz Mohammad, when approached, said that discussions were underway with officials at Fata Secretariat and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa education department to sort out a new method for issuing domicile certificate. He said that the issue pertained to all the seven erstwhile tribal agencies and it would be resolved soon.

BANNERS: The Khasadar and Levies removed all election-related banners, posters and flags from government buildings in NA-43 constituency on the orders of returning officer Zahid Usman Kakakhel. Mr Kakakhel ordered removal of all election campaign related material after receiving complaints from people and rival candidates about violation of election code of conduct by some contenders. Some candidates had hung oversized banners, pasted posters and hoisted their flags at prominent locations in and around Jamrud Bazaar. Taking notice of the violation, Mr Kakakhel ordered removal of the banners and posters as all the market buildings in Jamrud are the property of the government. He also took notice of holding of election campaign meetings inside government schools in Jamrud and ordered arrest of a school watchman for granting permission for the purpose.

PESHAWAR: A local government official was assaulted allegedly by workers of a political party on Thursday $5^{\text {th }}$ July as he removed illegal banners from the Circular Road in Peshawar. The returning officers have been directed to follow the code of conduct issued by the ECP which stipulates the size of banners and posters which candidates are allowed to put up during their campaign. Officials of all towns were subsequently directed to remove all banners which violated the rules. In this regard, Qaisar Bacha, a demolition officer with Town-I, was working to remove illegal banners of the Awam National Party (ANP) on Circular Road when some incensed workers allegedly attacked him. However, police officials have yet to register a case for the assault with officers blaming a conflict between the Yakatuot, Kutwali and Hashtnagri police station on the jurisdiction of where the crime took place. "This is interference in official business since a government servant has been attacked and tortured and his work disrupted," said a police officer while talking to The Express Tribune, explaining the possible charge under which a case could be registered
When the PTI took over the government in K-P over five years ago, it had identified education at the top of its agenda. Its provincial education minister was the tip of that spear, leading the charge to improve education in the province. But after five years, he failed to fix all the schools in his own constituency.
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) former education minister in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Atif Khan, while submitting his asset declaration forms to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), had provided a list of the work he had done for his constituents. This included providing basic facilities in schools such as drinking water, furniture, boundary walls, introduce bio-metric teacher attendance systems, establish girls model school, a home economics College for girls, a woman university, an engineering university and the first girl's cadet college. While he delivered on most of those promises especially the biometric attendance system and creating the first cadet college for girls, he did struggle in his promise to provide clean drinking water, furniture and boundary walls for schools, with hundreds of schools in his native Mardan still without basic facilities.
For the upcoming elections, Atif is contesting from two seats on PTI tickets, a national assembly seat of NA-21 Mardan-II and a provincial assembly seat of PK-50 Mardan-III. According to data available with The Express Tribune, there are 1,755 government schools in Mardan. Of these, 1,002 schools (around 56 per cent) are for boys and only 794 schools ( 44 per cent) are for girls. At the


## Two ANP lawmakers

running in general election
to retain seats
The News, $6^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
primary level, there are 1,359 schools of which 760 , or 56 per cent, are for boys and 600, or 44 per cent, are for girls. Out of the 168 middle schools in the district, 79 are for boys and 99 are for girls. There are 165 high schools of which 87 are boy's schools and 78 are girl's schools. The district has 59 higher secondary schools of which 35 are for boys and 24 are for girls'. There are eight madrassas or mosque schools. Around 409,104 students are enrolled in these schools with 60 per cent of all students boys and 40 per cent are girls. As many as 12,213 teachers are available in the district to teach these students.
According to data from the K-P Independent Monitoring Unit (a unit set up by the government), as many as 168 ( 9.57 per cent) schools of the 1,755 schools in Mardan are still without power. A further 82 schools ( f 4.67 per cent) have no clean dirking water for either children or teachers. Similarly, 30 schools (1.71 per cent) in the former provincial education minister's native district, lack toilets for both students and teachers. Similarly, 13 schools ( 0.74 per cent) in the district are still without boundary walls.
The K-P Annual Statistical Report of Government Schools 2017-18 shows that at the primary level, as many as 433 rooms in government schools of Mardan require major repairs while 726 rooms in different schools need to be completely rebuilt. Similarly, at the middle school level, 23 schools require major reconstruction while 28 schools are in poor condition and require to be completely rebuilt. At high and higher level, over 600 schools require major or complete reconstructions as these school buildings are in dilapidated condition.

Praising the late Pashtun nationalist leader Bacha Khan, PTI Chairman Imran Khan said on Thursday $5^{\text {th }}$ July that Bacha Khan's was a great leader whether anyone believed it or not. He was addressing a large public gathering here in connection with the upcoming general election. While urging his party's workers to criticize the ANP, Imran Khan said that no one should disparage Bacha Khan, whose son Wali Khan founded the ANP, currently led by Asfandyar Wali Khan.
Imran Khan, who had been critical of ANP and QWP leaders, said that sons of the leaders of both parties were contesting the election, signifying the hereditary political system in the country. PTI, he said, was contesting against these two fathers and their sons in Charsadda in a bid to end this system. Describing this trend to be akin to a monarchy, he said that the real reason for the downfall of the Muslim world was clinging to monarchies. According to him, the West had adopted democracy after abandoning monarchy, but the trend was reversed in Pakistan, adding that we were moving toward monarchy and creeping away from democracy. Lashing out against the hereditary politics, he said that it harmed the state while people chose leaders on merit in democracies He went on to describe both Maryam Nawaz and Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari as leaders chosen on the principle of hereditary politics, adding that both knew nothing about how poor lived without having access to clean drinking water and other essential necessities of life.
Terming the Quaid-e-Azam a true democratic leader, he said that the Quaid had secured independence for the country through a democratic struggle. Lashing out against Maulana Fazlur Rehman of the JUI-F, he said that he, his son and his brothers had distributed tickets for women's reserved seats among their own family members. Charsadda, he said, had been the victim of hereditary politics for the past three decades and PTI would defeat this trend. Criticising Nawaz Sharif, he said that a major verdict would be pronounced against the PML-N leader. According to him, Nawaz, who stole billions of rupees from the national exchequer, should be treated differently from a common thief. The country, he said, had been extraordinarily overburdened by foreign loans, which he said swelled from just Rs6 trillion to Rs27 trillion over the past 10 years.
Accusing Nawaz Sharif of stealing Rs300 billion from the national kitty, Imran Khan wondered how he could demand to know why he was disqualified. He also criticised NAB's decision to put a moratorium on arrests people involved in corruption just because they were taking part in the general election. PTI, he said, would strengthen the judiciary and NAB, enabling them to move quickly against people involved in corruption. Promising to raise Rs8 trillion through new taxation measures to boost the national economy, he said that his party would also streamline education and health sectors.
PESHAWAR: Two of the four Awami National Party (ANP) lawmakers elected to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly in 2013 are contesting the general election to retain their seats. Sardar Hussain Babak, Syed Jafar Shah, Ahmed Khan Bahadur and Gohar Ali Shah were elected to the KP Assembly in the 2013 election from different parts of the province.
Ahmed Khan Bahadur was elected to the assembly in the by-election after Ameer Haider Hoti vacated his PK-23 Mardan seat (now PK-53) and opted for the National Assembly after the 2013 general election. Ameer Haider Hoti is running for the PK-53 and NA-21 in the 2018 general election. Ahmed Khan Bahadur is hopeful that the ANP's provincial president would win both seats. He said that he would contest the by-election after Haider Hoti vacates one of the two seats. Ahmed Khan Bahadur had won the general election in 2008 on PK-24. The former ANP parliamentary leader in KP Assembly Sardar Hussain Babak is running for PK-22 Buner to retain his seat. He is contesting election for the fourth time from his native Buner district. He won the seat PF-77 Buner in the 2008 election and was given the portfolio of education. He had lost the seat in the 2002 election to Jamshed Khan of the Pakistan People's Party (Sherpao), which has now been renamed as Qaumi Watan Party.
A graduate of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Sardar Hussain Babak worked for two years as a journalist. As a student, he actively participated in the activities of the Pakhtun Students Federation. His uncle Mohammad Karim Babak had won the family seat twice in 1988 and 1997 and remained a minister.
Syed Jafar Shah was elected to the assembly on PF-85 Swat in the 2008 election. He defeated the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) stalwart and former federal minister, Amir Muqam.


Nawaz Sharif sentenced to
10, Maryam seven years jail terms in Avenfield reference
The News, $6^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

MMA fields 13 female candidates on direct NA seats
The News, $6^{\text {in }}$ July, 2018

Contesting election for the third time, Syed Jafar Shah is facing Amir Muqam again, among other candidates. However, this time Amir Muqam is contesting election on the Pakistan Muslim LeagueNawaz (PML-N) ticket. Jafar Shah, who was a social worker before contesting election, visited several Asian and European countries. He worked for a number of development organisations for 25 years. He has authored 10 books and research papers. Jafar Shah did BSc from the Jehanzeb College in Mingora, and got an LLB degree from Islamia Law College in Karachi. Another ANP candidate Gohar Ali Shah was elected to the KP Assembly from Mardan in 2013. However, he did not receive the party ticket for the 2018 general election. ANP has fielded Farooq Akram Khan in PK-48 Mardan, the constituency from where Gohar Ali Shah won the election in 2013.

ISLAMABAD: The Accountability Court on Friday convicted and sentenced former prime minister Nawaz Sharif to 10 years jail term on corruption charges in Avenfield corruption reference in his absence. His daughter Maryam Nawaz has been awarded seven and her husband Captain (retd) Safdar 1 year imprisonment in the case. Sharif has been fined 8 million pounds and Maryam Nawaz 2 million pounds.
The court had reserved its verdict in first of three corruption references against Sharif, his daughter Maryam Nawaz and son-in-law Captain (retd) Muhammad Safdar filed by country's corruption watchdog under Supreme Court orders. The judgment was reserved by judge Bashir Ahmed who completed the high profile trial under the supervision of a Supreme Court judge.
After disqualifying Nawaz Sharif from holding office in July last year, the apex court had directed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to file corruption references against members of the Sharif family. The corruption allegations against the then ruling family emanated from Panama Papers revelations in April 20016.
The ousted prime minister on Thursday filed an application in the Accountability Court, seeking delay in pronouncement of the judgement due to his absence from the country. Sharif and daughter is in London since June 14 where his wife Begum Khulsoom Nawaz has been undergoing treatment for cancer.
He stated in his application, moved by his lawyers, that he would return to the country after his wife shows some signs of improvement and like to hear the verdict in person. Opposition parties, particularly, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have opposed delaying the verdict. The court would also take up the Sharif's plea today for hearing.

ISLAMABAD: The religious parties under the umbrella of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) has fielded 13 woman candidates on general seats of National Assembly and 20 constituencies of four provincial assemblies. As per requirement as given in the Election Act, 2017, every party is needed to give $5 \%$ of its total candidates to women. As many as 191 MMA candidates including 178 male and 13 female candidates will contest on National Assembly seats.
The MMA candidate might have very little chances of victory but the alliance has been able to find female candidates to fulfill requirement of the Election Act. Most of the candidates belong to Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and JUI-F. The MMA candidate Parveen Akhtar will take Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) from NA-72 Sialkot. Other prominent candidates from this constituency include Chaudhry Armaghan Subhani of PML-N and Syed Ishtiaqul Hasan Gillani from Pakistan People's Party (PPP).
Another MMA candidate Fahmida Kausar will face ex PML-N cabinet member Saira Afzal Tarar from NA-87 Hafizabad. Chaudhry Shaukat Ali Bhatti of PTI and PPP's Allah Rakhi are other worthmentioning candidate from this seat. From NA-92 Sargodha, Shahnaz Bibi has been pitted against Syed Javed Hussain of PML-N, Sahibzada Naeemuddin Sialvi (PTI) and Muhammad Jamshed (PPP).
From NA-101 Faisalabad, Afifa Siddiqui of MMA will contest against Zafar Zulqarnain of PTI and PPP candidate Tariq Mehmood. From NA-115 Jhang, Lubaina Siddiqa of MMA will face independent candidates Syed Sughra Imam who is daughter of veteran politicians Syed Fakhar Imam and Begum Abida Hussain. Muhammad Ameer Sultan of PTI and Saleem Tahir of PPP are also in the run from this seat.
Aneela Batool will contest on MMA ticket from NA-134 Lahore against Malik Zaheer Abbas (PTI) and Rana Mubasshar Iqbal (PML-N). Ex-Punjab Assembly member and dissident PML-N leader Syed Zaeem Hussain Qadri is also in the field as an independent candidate.
The National Assembly constituency from Multan NA-154 will see Irum Gul of MMA against Syed Abdul Qadar Gillani (son of Yusuf Raza Gillani) of PPP, Ahmad Hussain (PTI) and Muhammad Suleman Qureshi (PML-N). Sikandar Hayat Bosan who was deprived of PTI ticket will compete as an independent candidate. From NA-169 Bahawalnagar, Ishrat Manzoor will contest against Muhammad Ijazul Haq of PML-Z and Noorul Hasan Tanvir of PPP. From NA-220 Umarkot, Ishrat Naz has been pitted against some stalwarts like Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi (PTI), Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Talpur (PPP) and Arbab Ghulam Rahim as an independent candidate. From NA -223 Matiaria, two female candidates Farhat Hayat of MMA and Nargis Naz of PML-N are in the field against Ramesh Kumar of PTI and Makhdoom Jamiluz Zaman from PPP.
The National Assembly constituency NA-228 of Tando Muhammad Khan (Sindh) will see Samia Abdul Qadar against Syed Naveed Qamar of PPP and Abdul Jabbar Memon from PTI. The MMA has fielded female candidates from two National Assembly seats of Dadu district of Sindh. Hameeda Khatoon NA-234 and Ms. Fatima NA-235. Hameeda Khatoon will face Liaquat Ali Jatoi of PTI and Irfan Ali Leghari from PPP while Ms Fatima is contesting against Rafique Ahmad Jamali (PPP), Ahmad Khan Lund (PML-N) and Karim Ali Jatoi (PTI). The MMA, however, could not find any female candidate for the National Assembly from Balochistan province. The alliance of religious parties has


The undecided voters will decide Pakistan's future Geo News, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

## CM directed to take

disciplinary action officials
involved in electioneering
Business Recorder, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
also nominated seven female candidates each from Punjab and Sindh provincial assemblies and three each from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.
LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday dismissed a petition praying upon the court to disqualify Pakistan Peoples Party Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Co-Chairperson Asif Ali Zardari from contesting the upcoming elections. After reserving the verdict briefly, the LHC bench dismissed the petition for lacking substance. The petitioner, Advocate Iqbal Haider, raised objection over Bilawal's use of the 'arrow' electoral symbol on the cover of the party's recently released manifesto.
"PPP's measure is in violation of section 215 (3) of Election Act 2017" the petition stated, "Chairman of Peoples Party Parliamentarian Asif Ali Zardari has been using party flag in clear violation of section 200 (2) of the Election Act. As per law, no political party can make use of another party's flag in its campaigns and manifesto". On July 1, the youth of Karachi's Lyari district welcomed on PPP's Bilawal Bhutto amid chants of "Na mir ka na pir ka, vote hai teer ka" and songs as he inaugurated his election office in Lyari's NA-246 to launch his campaign in the area. Bilawal was accompanied by former chief minister Murad Ali Shah, Sherry Rehman, Nabil Gabol, Saeed Ghani, Waqar Mehdi, Khalil Hoath and other leaders of the party.

ISLAMABAD: In the upcoming general elections, undecided voters or those reluctant to vote have emerged as a key battleground for political parties, surveys conducted by Gallup Pakistan and Pulse Consultant have revealed. This group is at $20 \%$ in the latest poll conducted by Gallup compared with $26 \%$ for PML-N and $25 \%$ for PTI at the national level. Six months ago, this third block of voters was only $10 \%$. While PML-N is the largest loser during this period, the undecided block is the largest gainer.
In the latest poll by the Pulse Consultants, this group combined with those who do not intend to vote stands at $14 \%$ which makes them the fourth largest block after PTI at $30 \%, \mathrm{PML}-\mathrm{N}$ at $27 \%$ and PPP at $17 \%$. According to Gallup Pakistan, six months ago, PML-N was ahead of PTI in voting intentions by $8 \%$. The situation remained largely unchanged through March/April. However, the gap has closed to merely $1 \%$ in the May/June measurement. The closure of the gap is owed to an $8 \%$ decline in the voting intention for the incumbent PML-N in the closing month of its five-year tenure in government. In the poll conducted by Pulse Consultants, the situation for PML-N has worsened, over the last year. While PML-N was ahead of PTI in voting intentions by $13 \%$ in 2017, in 2018 they have dropped behind PTI by 3\%.
Thus, according to Gallup Pakistan, while voting intentions for PTI remain largely static over the last 6 months, the PML-N decline by $8 \%$, and the rise of undecided by $10 \%$, has made the electoral contest neck and neck, between the incumbent PML-N and the challenger PTI. Although the poll by Pulse Consultants shows undecided voters to decrease by $2 \%$ their sheer volume cannot be ignored.
According to Gallup Pakistan and Pulse Consultants forecast, the forthcoming election campaign and the mood of $20 \%$ of voters (according to Gallup) and $14 \%$ of voters (according to Pulse) who list themselves as "undecided" in May/June may turn the vote count on July 25 in favour of either of the top two contenders.
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice Retd. Dost Muhammad Khan directed to initiate disciplinary action against the officers and officials involved in the electioneering and using governmental resources for the support of candidates of any political party in the current elections. He expressed these views while addressing a 6 -member representative delegation of National Youth Assembly at Chief Minister Secretariat Peshawar.
On this occasion provincial minister for Information Zafar Iqbal Bangash and Minister for education Dr. Saira Safdar, Principal Secretary to CM, Secretary Environment, Special Secretary Education, Additional Secretary Higher Education, Director Youth Affairs and other relevant officers were also present. Caretaker Chief Minister said that our country has gone through various crises and the people who suffered, showed resilience at the end and overcome all crises. Our people have unmatched patriotism that is the source of stability of the country. He said that powers and authority has been demarcated in the constitution. We have to implement it in letter and spirit. The development of the country and the well being of the public is clearly linked to the constitutionally defined power and responsibility of institutions. These institutions have the prime responsibility to deliver in consonance with the people expectations. The success or otherwise of the institutions was dependent upon the delivery within the already defined jurisdiction of these institutions, he added.
Our constitution provides a road map to all our tricky problems, the society is in grip with today. However, he called upon the youth to stay adhered to the true spirit of constitution. He said that liberty, peace, justice and the rights and responsibilities fixed in the constitution ensured the survival of our society. He said that merger of FATA into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa brought to surface some legal complications that were being addressed to by a high level task force constituted under his command. Competent ministers backed by the relevant administrative secretaries are part of the task force. He said that his caretaker cabinet gave representation to the erstwhile FATA in order to use his wisdom for the benefit of tribal and facilitate the smooth transition of newly merged districts to the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that mainstreaming of tribal was more important in the given situation because of the unique and different societal structure and peculiar culture of FATA. The Caretaker setup has planned how to manage the change of the outlook of newly merged districts into a civic society that is not an easy task to do. We have already identified immediate measures, short term, medium term and long term planning in this regard, he added. He said that the federal government has given a word in terms of sufficient fund for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the merged districts.


PMLN will not boycott
elections, rejects rumors to this effect
Business Recorder, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

## QWP announces

education, health centric manifesto
Express Tribune, $5^{\text {hh }}$ July, 2018

The caretaker Chief Minister said that different school of thoughts with different ideologies are now on the same page. They have given up their competing ideologies and got together for the survival and stability of the country. Caretaker Chief Minister wished the youth to make their recommendations how they see an ideal democratic setup and political governance in their country. These recommendations should go to the political elite representing them, the way they wanted to be represented. He wished proper training of political workers and especially the youth for their future democratic role in the governance of their country. He advocated the independence of election commission that he added was the key element for transparency in the whole election process and that would flush out the irritants manipulating the elections. He hoped that independent election commission would make best decisions for democracy in the country. He said that vote is a sacred trust needing dispassionate attitude to cast.
If we continued to cast our vote on the basis of Brathirism or any other consideration, we would continue to be at the receiving end. We should be aware of the good, the exercise of vote in favor of deserving candidates could bring and we should also be aware of the wrong if we continued voting against dishonest candidates. Caretaker Chief Minister assured to leave behind a good roadmap for the coming government. Still his government was focused to give relief to the people and if succeeded to somehow in giving them relief, the rest will be taken care of by the coming government for good governance.
Justice $\circledR$ Dost Muhammad Khan advised the youth to get research oriented education to be able to become part of government projects that is very much important for the development and progress of the country and would also overcome the unemployment. He said that an excellent teaching academy should be established for training the youth preparing them for their future responsibility. He said appreciated national youth assembly initiative that will become a platform for the new generation to face the challenges of future. Dost Muhammad Khan stressed on the members of youth assembly to visit the parliament and make themselves aware of the proceedings of the parliament. Caretaker Chief Minister advised the youth not to base their argument on hearsay that is against the Islamic injunctions. Their arguments should be tested and supported by proof, this is a culture we have to develop in our daily dealings with others. He said that our bureaucracy has the potential to contribute to the development of the country therefore they should contribute with their best potential to the country's development.

Our initial success will be the launching pad for the coming government to install a good governance structure for efficient delivery, he added. He called upon the youth to clean their surroundings. The clean surrounding, he meant, will reduce diseases that he added will reduce our spending on health related issues. On this occasion, Minister for Education and Minister of Information also expressed their views. Later on the members of the National Youth Assembly thanked the Chief Minister.
SWAT: President of PMLN KP Engr. Amir Muqam said that the PMLN will not boycott the upcoming general elections and denounced the rumors to this effect tooth and nail. Addressing Meet the Press Program of Swat Press Club here Thursday, the PMLN leader said that PMLN would win the general election with thumping majority and would address problems of Swat district in real manner.
PMLN President Shahbaz Sharif will formally start his election campaign for NA-3 constituency from July 13. The success of Shahbaz Sharif, he said would remove sense of deprivation of the people of Swat. Shahbaz Sharif, he said decided to contest from Swat constituency as it would provide an opportunity to Pushtoon belt to elect their Prime Minster. Therefore the people of Swat should vote for Shahbaz Sharif as it was an opportunity with to address their genuine problems. Shahbaz Sharif would announce special package for the people of Swat on July 13, he added. We are thankful to JUIF chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and MMA KP President Maulana Gulnasib for withdrawing their candidates in favor of Shahbaz Sharif from the constituency.
The PMLN was ready to accept the NAB court verdict in the Avenfield reference against Nawaz Sharif and his family. We are Awami people and will accept the people's court verdict on July 25 , he said, adding we do expect the verdict would in favor of the PMLN. July 25 will dawn with the success of PMLN across the country he said and added that anti PMLN forces were spreading baseless propaganda against Sharif family. The PMLN completed record project in Swat despite having no mandate in 2013 elections. He also dispelled the notion that we are withdrawing our candidate Rashad Khan from PK-5 constituency.
PESHAWAR: In a bid to compete with the outgoing government, the QWP has stated that education and health would be at the top of its agenda, should it come into power. This was stated as the Quami Watan Party (QWP) unveiled their election manifesto on Wednesday which covers almost all sectors while according top priority to education and health. The manifesto was unveiled by QWP provincial chairman Sikandar Hayat Sherpao, party leader Anisa Zeb Tahirkheli, party members Barrister Mansoor and other party leaders. Education has been kept as a priority for the party in the manifesto. The QWP, though, plans to make the education sector completely autonomous. To improve access to higher education, it said that sub-campuses of universities would be established in every district, Moreover, it announced plans of enhancing the budget for elementary and secondary education by 100 per cent.
The QWP also plans to focus on educating girls and specially-abled people. On the health front, the QWP has aimed at what has turned out to be the soft underbelly of the provincial health department, and especially the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. The QWP has stated that it intends to establish state a modern burn hospital in every division of the province while four rooms would be reserved for burns patients in each district headquarters hospital where latest equipment would be available for the treatment of these patients. The party also mentioned in their manifesto that they will accord special focus to enhancing sporting activities in the province and establish and modern sports complexes in every district apart from building sports grounds in every union council.


In this regard, it said that with support from partner organisations, it will host tournaments for different games while special arrangement would be for female players at these games. Realising the youth bulge and the pressure of unemployment, the QWP said that it will try and create jobs for the youth. In this regard, it hopes to set up industrial zones in the province where both men and women would get jobs opportunities. The party curiously stated that they will use provincial resources in these industries. Moreover, it said that it would help provide equal opportunities to residents of both rural and urban areas without any discrimination, while the party would try to uplift backward areas of the province. The party also seeks to embark on the 'demonstration development' model made famous by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of building big observable projects, promising to build roads, bridges and hotels. The QWP explains that this is part of their plan to make the province more attractive - particularly for tourists so that they can 'easily visit the province without any fear and get all the facilities in every district'.
With the PTI getting the leg up on its rivals through the Billion Tree Tsunami project and with climate change-related natural disasters ravaging the province over the past eight years, the QWP has promised to work on the environment. In this regard, it claims it will accord special focus to environmental changes as per international standards. The party also promises to uplift the state of journalists in the province by creating a separate television station apart from setting up a media city in the province where journalists would be provided with different facilities. The party also claimed to provide special focus would accorded to the mines and mineral sector of the province and properly utilise it for the uplift of the province and its citizens. Even as the top jurist of the country called for building major dams, the QWP said it plans to go another route to store water and mitigate drought: building 200 small dams in the province. Moreover, it promised to complete construction of the Munda Dam and Chashma Lift Canal Dam. Equal opportunities would be provided to women in every sector while the party would work for the uplift of women in the province. Moreover, it claimed that they would devolve power to the local level so that people can resolve their problems at the village levels.

QUETTA: Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) Chief Akhter Mengal said that ethnic differences in the province are responsible for the unrest, which has plunged Balochistan into more bloodshed. Addressing a public gathering at Alamdar Road, the BNP-M chief said, "Today every single home in Balochistan has a widow, dozens of children are helpless in our province, all nationalities living in Balochistan have lost their loved ones due to ethnic hate fueled by our common enemies."

Meanwhile, independent candidate Tahir Hazara has announced his withdrawal from NA-264 and NA-265 in favour of BNP-M candidates Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani and Abdul Wali Kakar. Senator Dr Jahanzaib Jamaldini, former MNA Nasir Ali Hazara, Sajid Tareen Advocate and people from Hazara tribe gathered in the election alliance between BNP and Tahir Hazara. "I have been feeling ashamed while facing the people of Hazara tribe because the beleaguered community has been facing genocide for the past two decades," Mengal said adding "Hazara nation is tired of lifting bodies of their loved ones."
He said that Pashtoon, Hazara, and other nations were living as one community during the era of (National Awami Party) NAP. "There were no reports that any nation hurled a stone on the other," he added. "Today we have been divided as separate nations, our enemies cultivated seeds of ethnic hate in Balochistan," Mengal said adding "the forces want to fuel more unrest in Balochistan so they could easily exploit the resources of people of Balochistan."
With regards to the mega corruption in Balochistan by previous regimes, the BNP chief said, "Today people do not have a bicycle while some have become billionaires and travel on private helicopters after looting the rights and due share of the people of Balochistan."
"After Nawab Bugti's assassination we segregated ourselves from government, despite facing immense challenges, BNP is the only party which is still standing on its ideology and never compromised on the rights of people of Balochistan," Mengal said.
BNP leader Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani lauded Tahir Hazara’s withdrawal from National Assembly's constituencies and said, "BNP-Mengal has pledged people of Balochistan that their rights would be protected in parliament at all costs."
"Though today our province is stricken with a crisis which can't be addressed by a single nation, we all have to play our due role to pull the province from crisis," he added.

LAHORE / ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday greenlighted the candidature of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Balochistan chief Yar Mohammad Rind after the provincial high court had earlier upheld the election tribunal's decision barring the politician from contesting the upcoming polls. The decision comes two days after the Balochistan High Court (BHC) upheld the decision of the appellate tribunal wherein Rind was disqualified from contesting the general elections for the constituency of NA-260 Sibi and PB-17 Suny Shuran area of the same district.
The PTI leader, through his counsel, contended that the high court had rejected his nomination papers for submitting a 'fake' degree during general polls of 2008. The lawyer maintained that the candidate had admitted that the degree was 'invalid' but not 'bogus'.
After allowing Rind to contest elections, the bench also directed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to allot him a symbol. The apex court issued a notice to respondents and adjourned the hearing for an indefinite period.
Separately, the Lahore High Court (LHC) sustained a petition seeking the disqualification of PTI leader Sardar Ghulam Abbas and declared him ineligible to contest the upcoming polls.
A two-member bench headed by Justice Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi began hearing a petition challenging Abbas's candidature for NA-61 (Chakwal) on the grounds that he submitted incomplete

nomination papers. The petitioner stated that Abbas did not specify asset details and omitted facts including inherited land. It added that the PTI leader did not pay or file tax returns.
The petition requested the court to disqualify Abbas for failing to qualify Sadiq and Ameen clause of Article 62, 63 of the Constitution.During the hearing, Justice Naqvi remarked that Abbas had served twice as a member of the provincial assembly and twice as district nazim yet he did not pay taxes. "You led a luxurious life but remained a non-tax filer," said the judge. However, the PTI leader's lawyer Ahsan Bohni asserted that his client had led a 'simple' life despite being in power.
It is pertinent to note that Abbas parted way with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz in May this year. He had joined the PML-N in September 2016. The influential politician was first elected to the Punjab Assembly in 1985, again in 1993 under the banner of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and made a minister. He then joined Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) during the tenure of former president General (retd) Pervez Musharraf and was twice elected as the district nazim.
GUJRANWALA: As per the list displayed outside the returning officer's office, Election Commission of Pakistan [ECP] has given green light to a total of 233 candidates to contest for 14 seats of Provincial Assembly in Gujranwala district for the upcoming general election. In Gujranwala, a total of 313 candidates had filed their nomination papers for 14 Provincial Assembly seats; 80 withdrew their papers and 233 candidates are now ready to contest in Gujranwala district.
According to details, in PP-51, a total of 11 candidates have filed their nomination papers including Shaukat Manzoor Cheema of PML-N, Ejaz Samma of PPP and Shabbir Akram of PTI. In PP-52, a total 14 candidates will contest including Adil Bakhsh Chattha of PML-N, Ahmed Chatha of PTI and Shehbaz Haider of PPP. In PP-53, 20 candidates have filed the nomination papers including Bilal Farooq Tarrar of PML-N, Nasir Cheema of PTI and Saood Dar of PPP. In PP-54, 16 candidates including Imran Khalid Butt of PML-N, Rizwan Aslam Butt of PTI and Mirza Owais of PPP will contest for win. In PP-55, 19 candidates including Nawaz Chohan of PML-N, Mian Arqam Khan of PTI and Yasin Kamboh of MMA will contest July 25 election. In PP-56, 19 candidates will take part in election including Taufeeq Butt of PML-N, Tariq Gujjar of PTI and Ashfaq Bajwa of PPP. In PP-57, 24 candidates will contest for the Provincial Assembly seat including Ashraf Ansari of PML-N, Asadullah Papa of PTI and Saleem Ansari of PPP. In PP-58, 17 candidates will take part in election race including Abdul Rauf Mughal of PML-N, SA Hameed of PTI and Wadood Dar of PPP. In PP-59, 20 candidates will compete for the seat of Provincial Assembly including Waqar Cheema of PML-N, Arshadullah Sandhu of PPP and Sohail Zafar Cheema of PTI. In PP-60, 16 candidates will fight for a win including Qaiser Iqbal Sandhu of PML-N, Zafarullah Cheema of PTI and Latif Asghar of PPP.
In PP-61, 11 candidates are all set to contest election including Rana Akhter of PML-N, Ehsanullah Virk of PTI and Seth Asghar of PPP. In PP-62, 19 candidates will contest July 25 polls including Amanullah Warraich of PML-N, Zahid Warraich of PPP and Shazia Mazhar of PTI. In PP-63, 15 candidates filed their nomination papers including Rana Umer Nazir of PTI, Iqbal Gujjar of PML-N and Imtiaz Arain of PPP while in PP-64, total 11 candidates will take part in election competition including Irfan Bashir Gujjar of PML-N, Khalid Pervez Virk of PTI and Rana Zafar Manj of MMA. Although there are 233 candidates belonging to different political parties for contest, but it is quite obvious that the real contest will be mainly between PML-N and PTI candidates in Gujranwala district.

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is on Thursday unveiling party manifesto for elections 2018. President PMLN and former chief minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif is presenting the party manifesto. PMLN leaders including former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider and others are also present.
GUJRANWALA/BUREWALA: The Election Commission of Pakistan has allowed prisoners to cast their votes through postal ballots as the jail administration has sent the prisoners' lists to the returning officers for issuance of ballot papers. According to details, 197 prisoners in Central Jail Gujranwala have showed their interest to cast the votes in the General Elections 2018. It was directed by the Election Commission that after fulfilling the requirements, the ballot papers be sent to the returning officers within the given time positively.
Meanwhile, the electioneering is gaining momentum as major political parties including PML-N, PTI and PPP have withdrawn their party tickets from candidates in NA-162 Vehari-I, PP-229 Vehari-I and PP-230 Vehari-II.
The PML-N has got a major jerk as the nomination papers of its candidate from NA-162 Chaudhry Nazir Ahmad Arain, who was the winner of 2013 elections, were rejected by the returning officer and Election Applet Tribunal Multan. Later, he fielded his elder brother, a retired banker, Chaudhry Faqir Arain, as the candidate for NA-162. For the provincial seat, he openly opposed the selection of former MPA Chaudhry Irshad and selected former MPA Yousaf Kaselia in PP-229 and Sardar Khalid Mehmood Dogar Advocate in PP-230.
Chaudhry Irshad Ahmad Arain who had joined the PML-N after quitting the PPP in 2010 by-election announced that he would contest the elections as an independent candidate in PP-230. PML-N is facing difficulties due to the awarding tickets to weaker candidates while the rift between the party and separation of Chaudhry Irshad Ahmad Arain will dent the party in the coming elections, local people said.
Meanwhile, the PTI has withdrawn its ticket from Ayesha Nazir Jatt and her father Nazir Ahmad Jatt for PP-229 as Ayesha was contesting election for NA-162 and her sister Dr Arifa Nazir Jatt was contesting elections as independent candidate in NA-163. Jatt family was refused PTI tickets because of their decision of contesting election in NA-163 against PTI South Punjab President and former Minister Muhammad Ishaq Khan Khakwani.


TLP to ensure Islamic laws
in country
The Nation, 5th July, 2018

Zafar Ali Shah quits PMLN, joins PTI
The News, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

It awarded tickets to ex-MPA Khalid Mehmood Chohan for NA-162, Humyoun Fareed Chishtti for PP-229 and Sardar Khalid Nisar Dogar for PP-230. It also withdrew party ticket from former MPA Abdul Hameed Bhatti in PP-230 who is now contesting election on Nazir Jatt's panel.
The Jatt group joined PTI in 2016 by-election of PP-233 after quitting PML-N. Nazir Jatt fielded his daughter Ayesha Nazir Jatt in NA-162, Chaudhry Usman Ahmad Warraich in PP-229 and Abdul Hameed Bhatti in PP-230.
Nazir Jatt also got ticket of Tehrik Allah-o-Akbar for his wife Abida Adeeb in PP-229. In 2013 general elections, the family contested on six seats including NA-167, 168 and 169, and three provincial assembly seats but lost all the seats by huge margin.
Burewala has a great political history as many local clans including Joyia, Langrial and Khakwani are present even before the partition. After the partition, Arain, Jatt, Rajpoot, Dogar, Gujjar, Bhatti and other families were settled and started playing an important role in the local politics. In 1980s, two big political parties PPP and PML emerged. Syed Shahid Mehdi Naseem with the help of local clans joined the PML platform while Qurban Ali Chohan along with Jatt, Rajpoot and other small baradaris joined PPP. Syed Shahid Mehdi was elected as MNA for four times and Qurban Ali Chohan elected MPA and MNA for one each term.
In 2002, Pervez Musharraf government held general elections and both the rivals contested against each other. They were forced to support Chaudhry Nazir Jatt who made strong entry in politics contesting the District Nazim election. He was defeated by a narrow margin and amazed the political pundits with his political entry. He impressed the people by his bold criticism against seasoned politicians.
In 2002 general elections, Nazir Jatt contested election on PML-Q ticket and got 76217 votes and defeated Mehmood Akhtar Grumman of PPP who got 54142 votes. After election, he worked hard for the welfare of the people and it was his efforts that Burewala and 12 other cities of South Punjab got natural gas facility.
Nazir Ahmad Jatt resigned from his MNA seat in 2010 fearing disqualification in bogus degree case and was disqualified by the Supreme Court. He announced to contest election before trial of his case and PML-N refused to award him party ticket. PPP leadership wanted to use his charisma to win first by-election in the Punjab. However, he was barred from contesting by-election after a Supreme Court decision against him. On other side, thousands of banners, portraits and posters of the contesting candidates have also been removed from different areas for violation of Code of Conduct issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan.
The ECP had issued the Code of Conduct to make portraits of $2 \times 3$ feet, banners $3 \times 9$ feet, posters $18 \times 23$ inches and handbills of $6 \times 9$ inches. There is also a ban on the use of flex banners and posters as well as wall wall-chalking. The administration warned the candidates that a report of the violations will be sent to the ECP. The operation will be conducted every day till the completion of the general elections and no relaxation will be given to anyone, it stated.
HUJRA SHAH MUQEEM: Pakistan came into existence in the name of Islam on the basis of TwoNation Theory. Muslims of the subcontinent were promised an Islamic Welfare State but the ruling elite always halted the enforcement of Islamic system in the country.
Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan [TLP] candidate for NA-143 Ghazi Chaudhry Javed Kanwal expressed these remarks while addressing a press conference at Hujra Press Club here the other day.
He pointed out that in 1973 Constitution, there was a clause of the enforcement of Islamic laws in the country within 10 years, lamenting that the clause had been seeking its implementation over the past 35 years. "The rulers, either for their vested interests or for the contentment of the world powers, have always avoided implementation of the clause of 1973 Constitution concerning implementation of Islamic laws. By doing so, they have drawn wrath of the Almighty," he said. "Now the TLP, under the vigorous leadership of Allama Khadim Hussain Rizvi, has appeared on the political scenario of Pakistan. Millions of youths from across the country will vote for the TLP to materialise the dream of Sharia enforcement in the country. They will fulfil their pledge with martyrs of Pakistan Movement," he maintained. He vehemently flayed the corrupt and incompetent past rulers for performing nothing good for uplift of the masses except looting national exchequer. "They embezzled billions of rupees of national wealth and laundered the money to offshore accounts. Resultantly, they have made every Pakistani indebted with thousands of rupees," he lamented. He regretted that the violence and corruption prevailed in politics, adding that feudal and landlords had dominated the country's political scenario. He said that internal and external enemies posed threats to the stability of Pakistan, declaring that the TLP fully supported state institutions working for protection the country. He said that the TLP had fielded its candidates in Hujra Shah Muqeem and it would defeat all political rivals on July 25 with the power of vote.
Following his discontent, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Zafar Ali Shah joined Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on Thursday. Upon his meeting with PTI chairman Imran Khan at his Islamabad residence, Shah proclaimed that "Now, Imran Khan is my Quaid (Political leader)." The former senator went on to state: "All of Pakistan is with Imran", adding that he wishes to execute his role as politician.
The former PML-N leader was all praises for the PTI chief commenting that he has torn down numerous amoral entities within Pakistan, also adding that Khan's background remains uncontaminated. The PTI supremo amid an address to his workers stated: "Shah left the PML-N as he did not want to support the party's wrong policies."
He added further that Nawaz Sharif's plea to defer the judgment in the Avenfieled reference case should be turned down.

Shafqat clarifies his position on Khatm-e-
Nabuwwat clause
The News, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Qadianis shouldn't be
allowed to vote as
Muslims: Ulema
The News, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Contestants on multiple seats may land parties in trouble
The Nation, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Saad Rafique thinks it would be harder to beat Hamid Khan compared to Imran Khan
Samaa TV, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Shah's ties with PML-N started falling loose subsequent to his desire on becoming the mayor of Islamabad from which he contested election for a Union Council in the local bodies' election of November 2015.

ISLAMABAD: PTI central leader and candidate for NA-130 Shafqat Mahmood has clarified impression given on social media that he had any role in the change of nomination form with clauses related to Khatm-e- Nabuwwat.
In his twitter message, Shafqat Mahmood issued the relevant page of Islamabad High Court (IHC) judgement issued Wednesday and also the three forms mentioned in the judgement. Shafqat Mahmood clarified that these three forms mentioned in the judgement with reference to him relate to financial matters only and does not include the nomination form with information about Khatam-e- Nabuwwat.
The IHC judgement had referred to a sub-committee meeting and mentioned forms XXIII, XXVII and XXVIIC as redrafted by the sub-committee members Ms. Anusha Rehman and Shafqat Mehmood, MNAs.
Shafqat Mahmood clarified that Form XX111 referred to election expenses details, Form XXVII was about political parties' financial info, and Form XXVIIC referred to info about central office bearers of political parties.
ISLAMABAD: The central leaders of the "Aalmi Majlis-e-Tahaffuz-e-Khatm-e-Nabuwwat" have termed demand of the Human Rights Commission that Qadianis should be given chance to cast vote in the general elections like Muslims, as against the Constitution of the country and facts.
Maulana Dr Abdul Raziq Sikandar, central Ameer of the Majlis, Pir Hafiz Nasirudin Khakwani, naib Ameer, Maulana Sahibzada Aziz Ahmad, Maulana Azizur Rahman Jalindhri, Maulana Allah Wasaya, Maulana Muhammad Ismail Shujaabadi, Maulana Azizur Rahman Sani and Maulana Abdul Naeem in a statement said that the Parliament of Pakistan had unanimously termed Qadianis as non-Muslim minority and decided that they are not part of Muslim Ummah. They said that any European NGO has no right to demand inclusion of Qadianis in Muslim Ummah. They reminded the Human Rights Commission that no power in the world could term these non-Muslim Qadianis as Muslim.

ISLAMABAD: Contesting elections on more than one seats by the key political players of mainstream parties seemed dominating in upcoming general elections which might land the political parties vying for forming governments at centre and the provinces in trouble as the candidates winning on more than one seat have to relinquish the additional seats they will win.
The recently conducted opinion polls by two different bodies gave credence to the notion that showed neck-and-neck competition between Pakistan Muslim League(Nawaz) and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf at national level with former having edge in Punjab while latter far ahead in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
In both these parties, the main leaders of these parties are contesting on more than one seat and in case of winning more seats they have to retain only one seat while vacating rest of the won seats.
Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Chief Imran Khan is contesting on five National Assembly seats from Bannu, Mianwali, Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi and in case of winning more than one seat he has to retain only one while he has to vacate rest of the seats before taking oath.
Similarly, party stalwarts like Shah Mahmood Qureshi was also contesting on more than one National Assembly seats while he was also contesting on one provincial assembly seat as well from Punjab.
PTI Punjab chapter chief Aleem Khan was also contesting on one national and one provincial assembly seats. Similarly the PTI former speaker Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Asad Qasir was also contesting on one national and one provincial assembly seats.
Similarly, another PTI leader Ghulam Sarwar Khan is also contesting on two national assembly seats. But the things were more or less same in PML-N as well where party chief Mian Shehbaz Sharif is in the run for three National Assembly constituencies while he is also contesting on provincial assembly seat from Punjab as well. His son Shahbaz Sharif is also contesting on national and provincial assembly seat.
Former PML-N premier Shahid Khaqan Abbasi is also contesting from two national assembly constituencies. But PTI in case of winning all the seats has to vacate over a dozen seats which is much more than the PML-N. So in case, the neck-and-neck contest would remain between the two parties ultimately the party which has to vacate more seats in Punjab or at federal level would be on the losing side.

LAHORE: PTI chief Imran Khan is contesting the election against PML-N leader Khawaja Saad Rafique. According to Rafique, it would have been harder to beat PTl's Hamid Khan.
"I would have had to work harder if Hamid Khan was contesting the election against me," the former minister told Nadeem Malik. "At least he is an honest man. It would have been difficult to criticise him. Imran Khan sahib has such black holes that I never have to say anything. There is no need to say anything."
Rafique said he had asked Imran to contest the election in Lahore. "I never challenge anyone," he said. "I invited him. Challenge has an element of arrogance, which is not in me. I just invited him and he accepted the invitation. Now, it will be a fun match."
According to Rafique, he never criticised the PTI chief as a person. "Neither will I ever do that," he said. "He verbally abuses us, which is something we cannot do. We will criticise his politics. We are serious politicians who have been in politics for the past four decades. We discuss issues."


Elections 2018: Where did all the women go?
Samaa TV, 5 th July, 2018

Nisar reached out to Imran Khan for seat adjustment, claims PTI leader
The Express Tribune, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Nawaz has taken
asylum in London: Zardari The Nation, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Differences emerge in PTI over support for Sheikh Rasheed in Rawalpindi Daily Times, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Malik asked him about PTI's chances of winning from Lahore. "The PTI has had its support," said Rafique. "They found people and they were also given people. But I don't see any chance of them forming the government in Punjab."
He spoke about the popularity of his party at grassroots level. "I have been walking the streets of Punjab for the past 14 days," he said. "After all the propaganda and character assassination, I thought people would question us. But people are aware of everything."
According to Rafique, grassroot workers have more political acumen than "so-called educated people". "The so-called educated people, who speak English with a twisted mouth, do not have the political acumen of a Matric-pass or FA-pass political worker in the streets," he said. "I am only in touch with the workers in the streets. I am one myself. We are in a majority."
He said that this is a competition between the power of wealth and the power of the street. "The streets can't be beaten."
On the other hand, the PTI chief is positive about his victory. He said he is competing with the "prize bond".
"Insha Allah [God willing], it will be good," he said. "Even the surveys show how the PTI has leapt ahead of the PML-N in Punjab. Insha Allah, we'll win Lahore. Punjab's breeze of change rises from Lahore. We showed PTI's power on April 29 at Minar-e-Pakistan. In the three weeks leading to the campaign, I will focus on Lahore."
Will the PTI chief spend July 18, July 19 and July 20 in Lahore? "Yes. I will also visit before these dates. My house is ready in Zaman Park. I will spend more time here and will win in Lahore."

The Pakistan Peoples Party has fielded more female candidates for the election than any other party. The party has fielded a whopping 15 women, whereas the PTI has fielded 12 and PML-N 10. There are a total of 849 seats in the national and provincial assemblies.
Political parties submitted to the Election Commission of Pakistan that of the total number of candidates given tickets, $5 \%$ are women. The PPP has awarded tickets to Shaista Razzak for NA17 Haripur and Shehla Raza for NA-243 Karachi. Asma Alamgir, Yasmin Safdar, Mehreen Anwar, Sumera Gul, Nafisa Shah, Shazia Atta Marri, Nargis Faiz and Samina Khalid were also given tickets.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Vice President Chaudhry Ghulam Sarwar alleged on Wednesday that former interior minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan had contacted PTI chief Imran Khan more than once in the recent past for a seat adjustment in Rawalpindi.
A formal contact, Sarwar claimed, "had been made through a mutual friend and Imran was willing not to field a PTI candidate against Nisar in NA-59 (Rawalpindi)".
"Nisar has been my political rival for years. And I strongly opposed the proposal when it was shared with me," said Sarwar, who is PTI's candidate against Nisar in NA-59 and NA-63. Sarwar had defeated Nisar in the Taxila constituency in the 2013 general elections. He made these revelations while addressing a news conference and demanded that the Election Commission of Pakistan take notice of alleged violations of the code of conduct by the former interior minister. "[Nisar] has been running his election campaign using state resources. He still enjoys the VIP protocol given to him in the past as interior minister," he alleged, adding that a heavy contingent of police guarded him during his campaign rallies, which is tantamount to influencing voters who might think Nisar was still in power. Sarwar said he had already lodged a complaint against Nisar with the district election commissioner.
The PTI leader, on the occasion, questioned the source of income of Nisar who has managed to purchase three plots in DHA and established a huge poultry farm in the Chakri area of Rawalpindi.
"Nisar was the most corrupt member in Nawaz Sharif's cabinet. He shored up revenues through police stations and revenue clerks," alleged Sarwar.
"Nisar should explain how he had purchased plots C-127, C-128 and B-128 in DHA Rawalpindi Phase II," he said, adding that the disgruntled PML-N leader had not mentioned his Chakri poultry farm in his income tax returns.
"When he started politics in 1985, he had no urban property. Now he goes abroad for vacations and lives in a 25-kanal house," he said.
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples' Party Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari claimed on Wednesday that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has taken political asylum in London.
In an interview, the former president said that Pakistan Muslim League-N President Shehbaz Sharif should tread with care as the votebank belongs to the former prime minister and it will be then shifted to Maryam Nawaz.
In response to a question, Zardari said he is not likely to have an issue with disgruntled PML-N leader Ch Nisar but might have an issue with Nawaz. The former president said that he wants to see his son Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as the prime minister, adding in the same vein that Bilawal can also learn 'sitting in the opposition'. Zardari said that he never spoke about a coalition with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan.
While speaking on the recent action by the National Accountability Bureau, he said that the probe authority has been ineffective in Sindh as since 30 years it has been holding him accountable.
RAWALPINDI: Differences emerged in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Rawalpindi chapter over the party leadership's decision of supporting the Awami Muslim League (AML) Chief Sheikh Rasheed in NA-60 and NA-62 constituencies of the city.
Following differences with the party leadership, PTI South Punjab Vice President Malik Parvez Awan on Wednesday met Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders Senator Chaudhry Tanvir and


Hanif Abbasi and formally joined PML-N. While talking exclusively to Daily Times, PTI South Punjab VP Malik Parvez Awan accused Sheikh Rasheed of hijacking PTI in Rawalpindi. He alleged that Rasheed is trying to form his own team within PTI which is not acceptable for ideological workers. PTI leadership had not taken the local leadership and candidates from these constituencies into confidence before announcing support for Rasheed, he added.
PTI former Member of Provincial Assembly and former district president Arif Abbasi has also refused to run election campaign for Rasheed.
"Neither I nor party workers will run campaign for Rasheed in NA-60 and NA-62 constituencies, where PTI didn't put its own candidates and announced support for AML head," Arif Abbasi said also while talking exclusively to Daily Times on Wednesday.
He also leveled serious allegations against Rasheed of taking millions as bribe from the candidates of Provincial Assembly under his both NA constituencies. Rasheed has taken two new Vigo Cars from Chaudhry Adnan as bribe for issuing him PTI ticket from PP-11.
Similarly, he took millions of rupees from another candidate for PTl's ticket, Abbasi blamed. PTI announced Chaudhary Adnan as its candidate for PP-11, former MPA Rashid Hafeez for PP-16, Fiazul Hassan Chohan for PP-17 and Ejaz Khan Jazi for PP-18, while Shehryar Riaz who recently joined PTI from PML-N is announced as president for Rawalpindi. Sources said that former MPA and candidate from PP-18 Ejaz Khan Jazi and Fiazul Hassan Chohan who also remained member of provincial assembly in Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal era are also against the decision of supporting Rasheed in NA-60, 62 while Rasheed was also opposing Ejaz Khan for PTI ticket and was willing that Shehryar Riaz may be the candidate from this constituency.
While the two other candidates of Provincial Assembly Adnan from PP-11 and Rashid Hafeez from PP16 are with Rasheed and according to party leadership decision they have started their campaign with him.
NA-60 and NA-62 have two provincial assembly seats each that include PP-11, PP-17, PP-16 and PP-18 respectively. Difference between PTI leadership and workers on Rasheed's issue can severely damage PTI and Rasheed's vote bank.

RAWALPINDI: A multi-party convention was held in Rawalpindi to discuss the failing state of education in District Rawalpindi, analyse the five-year education plans of contesting candidates and probe reasonable solutions to ensure quality education across the government-run schools.
The convention was organised by Alif Ailaan and Sustainable Social Development Organisation (SSDO), and attended by Barrister Danyal (PML-N for NA-62), Sheikh Arsalan (PML-N for PP-16) Sumera Gul (PPP for NA-62), Col. Amjad Sabir (PTI for NA-59), Haji Rizwan Ahmad Awan (MMAJI for NA-PP-14), Sheikh Rashid Ahmad (AML for NA-62) and Dr Azhar Aslam (Independent Candidate for NA-60) along with civil society members.
Analysis of the educational landscape in Rawalpindi revealed that availability of schools beyond primary access, quality of education, missing facilities and poor school infrastructure are the three most important factors contributing to failing education standards in Rawalpindi.
As per Annual School Census 2017 done by Punjab Government, $62 \%$ of all the schools in the district are primary schools. There are only 40 higher secondary schools in district Rawalpindi which make $2 \%$ of the total schools. The students graduating primary schools do not have enough schools to attend post primary. The middle and high or higher secondary schools are at greater distances from their households.
Lack of schools beyond primary levels explains why there is a drop in the enrolment rates as we move up the higher classes. This trend can be observed as there is only 1 middle school for every 4 primary schools. There is only 1 higher secondary school for every 10 high schools in the district.
Almost half of the schools in the district have unsatisfactory building condition. 57 schools have buildings which fall under the category "completely repairable". 23 schools in the district have dangerous buildings. There are 120 schools in the district that do not have a boundary wall and 141 schools are not secured because of no main gate.
Rawalpindi is ranked at the bottom of the province based on the learning outcomes demonstrated by the students in PEC assessments. The learning outcomes in Science are specifically low.
One of the reasons is a shortage of science labs and subject specialist teachers in schools. Out of the 17,443 teachers appointed in the district, only 2,501 (14\%) are subject specialist teachers and only $338(2 \%)$ are senior subject specialists. 282 of the 428 high and higher secondary schools in district Rawalpindi lack science labs.
83 schools lack physics lab, 86 schools lack biology lab, 89 schools lack chemistry lab.
When asked about their 5-year plan to reform public school system in their constituencies, Barrister Danyal stressed upon investing more in early and primary years learning and teachers training, discounting the value in creating science labs and building school infrastructure.
MMA-JI's candidate Haji Rizwan announced to spend 5\% of Pakistan's GDP towards education if their party forms the government. PTI's Col. Amjad Sabir promised to increase salaries for teachers and providing more research, instructional and learning tools and science labs in Rawalpindi's schools and classrooms for improved student-teacher relationship.
Dr Azhar Aslam spoke about introducing Speed Education programme, an accelerated learning programme for out-of-school children who can do their matriculation within four years of starting the programme.

65 NA candidates
contesting polls on Jeep
symbol in Punjab
The News, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Survey finds PML-N
leading in Punjab, PTI gaining ground
Daily Times, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Zafar Ali Shah joins PTI
Pakistan Today, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

ISLAMABAD: At least 65 candidates are contesting for the National Assembly seats in Punjab alone on Jeep symbol, a symbol which has drawn interest among political observers after various PML-N defectors asked for this particular sign for the election 2018.
Top PML-N defectors, including former interior minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan and provincial minister Zaeem Qadri, are also contesting election on the Jeep symbol.
According to official final list of candidates in 120 constituencies of Punjab province, uploaded on the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) website on Wednesday, Pakistan Muslim LeagueNawaz (PML-N) has fielded the highest number of candidates in the province.
The former ruling party led by Nawaz Sharif has given tickets to 102 candidates while Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of Imran Khan has awarded party tickets to 100 candidates in these 120 constituencies. The ECP has not uploaded the final list for 21 constituencies of the province in Lahore, Rajanpur and Rahimyar Khan owing to pending court cases, says the official portal.
Surprisingly, the newly-founded religious party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan has also emerged as one of the biggest parties in the province in terms of candidates with 97 tickets awarded to its members.
Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has fielded 98 contestants in these areas for the election 2018 in Punjab province alone.
A few days ago, more than 11 candidates of PML-N had returned their party tickets and sought the Jeep symbol from the ECP instead of their previous Tiger symbol. The famous among the revolting members were Sardar Farood Amjad Khosa of DG Khan, Sardar Mohsin Hasan Khan, Usama Abdul Karim, Sher Ali Gorchani, and Sultan Mehmood Hunjar.
However, Ch Nisar on Tuesday disassociated himself from other independent candidates in Punjab contesting on the Jeep symbol. A day earlier PML-N leader Maryum Nawaz had alleged that the symbol of Jeep was becoming the symbol of "aliens". Her father Nawaz Sharif had also questioned as to why candidates had been forced to "climb on jeep". Maryum had tweeted that every vote for jeep is a vote for "Khalai Makhlooq" (aliens).
ISLAMABAD: A constituency-wise survey of entire Punjab has found Pakistan Muslim LeagueNawaz (PML-N) maintaining popularity despite ongoing corruption trial of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, disqualification of its prominent leaders and defection of so-called electables.
According to the survey conducted by the Institute of Public Opinion Research (IPOR), although PML-N is ahead with $51 \%$ vote bank, it has largely preserved its vote with only a $2 \%$ increase in comparison with that of 2013. This is in contrast with the significant increase in PTI's vote - from $19 \%$ in 2013 to $30 \%$ in 2018.
The survey with the biggest-ever sample size of 200,349 respondents from the province was carried out between April 15 and June 2 this year with a response rate of over $72 \%$. All National Assembly constituencies of Punjab (141) were surveyed with average sample size of 1,420 respondents from each constituency.
According to the survey, the PML-N is ahead of PTI with a $5: 3$ ratio of voters. The majority of the respondents said the load shedding had significantly decreased in the past five years. They reposed trust in the performance of their MNAs and MPAs in terms of development work. However, they identified three most important issues they still face: lack of access to clean drinking water, shortage of gas, and sewerage issues. Health, education, unemployment and corruption received the lowest scores in their priority list.
The survey indicates that the PTI largely took away the PPP's vote in Punjab, which has now been reduced to $5 \%$ from $11 \%$ in 2013, as many PPP leaders switched to the PTI, besides some PML-Q leaders. Imran Khan's party is also considered a beneficiary of the fresh vote as 20 million new voters were enrolled after the population census. Tehreek-e-Labbaik with $3 \%$ vote bank emerged as the fourth largest party, whereas PML-Q and Jamaat-e-Islami have $1 \%$ vote bank each.
Performance of Shehbaz Sharif, despite his general perception as the most efficient chief minister, hasn't been well received by the public. To a question of how they see the five-year performance of his government, only $28 \%$ rated it very good, whereas $48 \%$ termed it average, $13 \%$ considered it bad, and $7 \%$ declared it very bad. However, $64 \%$ respondents were satisfied with the development work carried out by their respective MNAs and $63 \%$ endorsed their MPAs.
Unlike yet another general perception that PTI is very popular among the youth, in particular women, the survey gives the verdict in favour of the PML-N.
Of the total respondents, $24 \%$ belonged to the age bracket of $26-40$ years and identified themselves as supporters of the PML-N compared to $14 \%$ for the PTI. The second biggest number of respondents ( $23 \%$ ) was in the age bracket of $18-25$ years. Of the respondents surveyed, $11 \%$ fell in this age group and said their vote was for PML-N in comparison with $8 \%$ for the PTI. Some $17 \%$ of the respondents were 41-50 years old, with $9 \%$ of them supporting the PML-N compared to $5 \%$ supporting the PTI.
If a gender-wise comparison is taken, $34 \%$ of the men and $17 \%$ of the women supported PML-N, whereas $22 \%$ men and $8 \%$ women respondents supported the PTI.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Zafar Ali Shah on Thursday joined Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). After meeting PTI Chairman Imran Khan at his residence in Islamabad, "Now, Imran Khan is my Quaid."
"All of Pakistan is with Imran," the former senator added. Shah continued, "I want to fulfill my role as a politician."


Stating that the country needs a leader like Imran, Shah said, "The PTI chief has destroyed several corruption deities within the nation."
Addressing his workers on the occasion, Imran said, "Shah left the PML-N as he did not want to support the party's wrong policies." The PTI chief reiterated that the Avenfield reference verdict against Nawaz Sharif and his family should be announced tomorrow. "The law is the same for everyone," Imran stated adding that Nawaz's request to delay the verdict in the case should not be adhered to.
Shah's relations with PML-N leadership turned sour during the local bodies' election of November 2015. The former senator wanted to become mayor of Islamabad and contested election from a Union Council. However, some PML-N leaders supported an independent candidate who won the election and then joined PML-N.

NOORPUR THAL: PTI Khushab district president Malik Gull Asghar Khan Baghoor on Wednesday announced quitting the party.
Addressing a press conference here, Mr Baghoor also announced contesting election as independent candidate against PTI candidate from NA-94 constituency. It is to be noted that the PTI had awarded ticket to Mr Baghoor from NA-94 but later changed its candidate and instead awarded a ticket for Punjab Assembly to Mr Baghoor. Earlier, a large number of Malik Gull Asghar's supporters protested against the PTI top leadership for changing its candidate in NA-94 constituency.

ISLAMABAD: In a recent turn of events, religious party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) headed by Maulana Khadim Hussain Rizvi has jumped into the electoral politics getting in more candidates than many other active parties in the political arena for decades.
According to a local media report, TLP has fielded more than 150 candidates for the National Assembly seats across the country after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced its incomplete 'final list' of candidates.
The information missing from the ECP data, available on their official website, is that of candidates from 23 constituencies in three Punjab districts. This information is withheld due to 'court cases' the report said. Moreover, the details of the candidates from a Rawalpindi constituency, NA-56, are also missing, for which the ECP has not mentioned any reason.
According to an analysis, after Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP), TLP is the only party which gathered over 100 candidates 117 constituencies of Punjab.
The total number of TLP candidates in these 117 constituencies stands at 103, which means that the party has fielded candidates on 87 per cent of the total constituencies in the province.
The religious party gained prominence after it staged a prolonged sit-in at the intersection between Rawalpindi and Islamabad crippling life in the twin cities last year on the issue of Khatm-e-Nubuwat declaration.
The ECP data shows that the PPP has fielded the largest number of 225 candidates (90pc) in 248 constituencies across the country. The PTI and the PML-N have fielded 218 (87pc) and 193 candidates (77pc), respectively, all over the country. Another religious party, Tehreek-e-Labbaik Islami, has also put up 18 candidates in Punjab. Moreover, looking at the data province wise, it had been found that PTI has fielded 112 candidates in Punjab's 120 constituencies, followed by the PML-N (111 candidates) and the PPP (108 candidates).
In Sindh, the PPP has fielded 60 candidates, out of 61 constituencies. After the PPP, followed by the PTI ( 45 candidates) and the PML-N (32 candidates). The Awami National Party has fielded 38 candidates in KP. Meanwhile, the ECP has extended the date for applying for the postal ballot for persons with disabilities from July 5 to 10.
LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Thursday said his party will contest the elections and let the public decide its fate. The former prime minister was speaking to the media outside the Lahore High Court, which accepted Abbasi's appeal against the verdict of an election appellate tribunal that disqualified the PML-N leader for life and barred him from contesting the General Election 2018 from NA-57, Murree.
"The party leadership is conducting a powerful election campaign. We will contest the election, and God willing, be victorious with a significant majority," he said. "We have to contest the polls and then leave the rest to the public." He further said that the conspiracies had been shared with the public. "We pray that a transparent election is held in Pakistan," Abbasi commented.
Commenting on Nawaz Sharif's stay in London, the PML-N leader said he will return to Pakistan as soon as his wife, Begum Kulsoom's medical condition improves. On Wednesday, Nawaz had asked the accountability court to delay the verdict of the Avenfield properties corruption reference. "My wife has been on a ventilator since the last 21 days. I want to hear the verdict in the court room where I have presented myself with my daughter over 100 times," he had told the media in London.
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan, however, has insisted the verdict in the Avenfield properties corruption reference against Nawaz should not be delayed. "The Avenfield reference verdict should be announced tomorrow (Friday)," Imran said while speaking to the media before heading to Islamabad after concluding his two-day tour of Karachi.
Responding to the former premier's request that the accountability court delay its verdict, the PTI chairman said, "Nawaz is not special that the law be changed for him."


PTI succeeds to woo
dissidents
"There is no need to delay the verdict as first he lied and then wasted time," he reiterated adding that the nation is awaiting the verdict. Earlier, the accountability court said it will announce its verdict in the Avenfield reference case on July 6 (Friday).

LAHORE: Punjab IG Dr Syed Kaleem Imam on Thursday said 136 cases have been registered so far over violation of Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) code of conduct.
"Investigations were conducted against 946 political party workers, including 429 from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), 134 from Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and 22 from Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), across Punjab," the provincial IG said.
"Further, 361 supporters of independent candidates and other political parties were booked over violation of ECP's code of conduct," Dr Imam said.
The Punjab IG added, " 65 workers of different political parties have been detained under the Goonda Act."

On Wednesday night, two PTI workers were booked for using fireworks during party leader Aleem Khan's corner meeting in NA-129 (Lahore). Police also arrested two guards of PTI candidate for PP163, Bilal Aslam, for display of arms. In view of Section 144 imposed in the city, display of arms and fireworks is banned in pursuance of ECP's code of conduct. Separately, a returning officer has summoned PML-N candidate from Muzaffargarh Haroon Sultan for saying it is 'haram' to cast votes for women.

ISLAMABAD : All three constituencies of federal capital including NA-52, NA-53 and NA-54 will witness neck and neck competitions in the upcoming general election as heavy weights such as; former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, PTI chairman Imran Khan, MMA candidate Mian Aslam, Ayesha Gulalai, Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, Asad Umar and Anjum Aqeel are vying for these seats.
According to details, three strong candidates including PML-N ticket holder and former federal minister Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, Muhammad Afzal Khokhar of PPP and Raja Khurram Nawaz of PTI are in run from NA-52. Both Raja Khurram Nawaz and Dr Tariq Fazal belong to same constituency but people have voted Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary to power twice from this constituency.
NA-53 constituency will witness tough and interesting competition as most heavy weights including PTI chairman Imran Khan, former PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Syed Sabtainul Hassan Bukhari of PPP, Mian Aslam of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), Chaudhary Saeed of Tehreek-e-Labaik and former PTI disgruntle MNA Ayesha Gulalai are vying for this seat.
Areas of central and urban Islamabad are included in this constituency and mainly tough competition is likely between Imran Khan and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.
According to a political pundit, Mian Aslam and Sabtainul Hassan are also considered equally influential candidates and they have their personal vote bank in the constituency.
West, North-west, some urban and rural areas of federal capital fall in limits of NA-54 constituency and former PML-N MNA Anjum Aqeel, Asad Umar of PTI, Mian Aslam of MMA, Imran Ashraf of PPP and independent candidate Zubair Farooq and Hafeezur Rehman are pitched against each other.

RAWALPINDI: The leadership of PML-N has pitched Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry son of Senator Ch. Tanvir in NA-62 constituency to contest elections against heavyweight like AML chief, Sheikh Rashid and PPP's Fakhar Abbas who is a new face and little known even in local politics of Rawalpindi. Jamiat Ulema Pakistan has also fielded its candidate Tariq Munir Butt from this constituency.

Senator Ch Tanvir is an old politician and has also remained vice president of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board in mid 90s. His services in Rawalpindi Cantonment are immense for which purpose people still reckon him in good way. Now his son Barrister Daniyal who over the years has gained popularity in politics through his efforts and working still has no contribution in NA-62 and contesting elections for the first time. However, his association with PML-N really matters for convincing people to vote in his favour. In this context, the real contest will be between Barrister Daniyal and Sheikh Rashid who has also served as federal minister for Railways as well as Information.
Nothing could be said and predicted that who will be the winner in this constituency between the two on election day.
However, Sheikh Rashid has predicted to get record number of votes this time compared to previous elections. During electioneering the AML chief is using the trump card of 'Khatam-e-Nabuwat' to win the confidence of voters in his favour.
Similarly, Sheikh Rashid who indeed is considered to be Awami leader has another agenda in his manifesto which he said would enforce practically after winning the elections from this constituency as well as from NA-60. Sheikh Rashid has vowed to provide 10,000 jobs on merit basis to youth who are jobless in his constituencies. Sheikh Rashid has deep roots in Rawalpindi and a real threat for his political opponents even if he contest election as independent candidate. In the previous elections held in 2013, Sheikh Rashid handed over a convincing defeat to PML-N candidate Shakil Awan from this constituency with a margin of around 10 thousand votes.
Apart from his own popularity he enjoys the backing of PTI which would become a major factor of his success if he wins from this constituency. Though PPP has pitched Faqar Abbas however, the voters of this party are also divided and have turned their favours towards PTI. This would also count a lot in favour of Sheikh Rashid on the day of election.
SARGODHA/OKARA/SIALKOT: Four independent candidates of PTI North Punjab have announced to support the party candidates following the visit of its chairman Imran Khan to

Sargodha a couple of days ago. PTI North Punjab senior vice president Mumtaz Akhtar Kahloon and three others had gone against the party decision over tickets issue, and announced to contest elections as independent candidates. The PTI head visited Mumtaz Akhtar Kahloon and asked him to accept the party decision. Mumtaz Akhtar Kahloon in NA-90, his son Abdullah Mumtaz Kahloon in PP-77, Rao Mudassar in PP-78 and Col (r) Fazal in PP-75 announced to withdraw and quit their election campaign in favour of PTI ticketholders. They also said that they had taken the new decision in respect of Imran Khan and in the best interest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. They also pledged to run the PTI's candidates' election campaign.
On the other side, PML-N Okara District President Syed Zahid Gillani has parted ways with the PMLN and announced to unconditionally support the PTI's NA-143 candidate Syed Gulzar Sibtain Shah and PTI candidate Ch. Tariq Irshad Khan in PP-187. Zahid Gillani said that his relationship started with Mian Nawaz Sharif in 1981 when he visited his house during the Zia Regime. Later, he said, his family's notables from city Depalpur also joined the party as they were Muslim Leaguers."Since then, we hve been working for the party with our strength to support PML-N with Nawaz Sharif. We have never been accommodated with party tickets in any general elections. Also for the upcoming general elections, the PML-N leadership ignored us in PP-187 constituency. Finally, we have decided to quit the PML-N. Now in the present situation, we unconditionally have decided to support the PTI candidates," he concluded.
Meanwhile, the PPP has started its door-to-door election campaign in Sialkot city's Constituency (NA 73, Sialkot-II). It has fielded Zarar Mehmood Malik against PML-N's candidate Khawaja Asif and PTI's Usman Dar. Total 10 candidates are in the election race in the constituency. Talking to newsmen, PPP candidate Zarar Malik vowed to give tough time to his rival candidates belonging to PML-N and PTI in Sialkot city in July 25, 2018 general elections. An Emirates Airline's flight averted a accident when a bird hit its engine while it was landing at the runway of Sialkot International Airport.
According to the airport management, a bird hit the engine as the flight (EK-620) coming from Dubai was landing at the runway. The pilots safely landed averting any untoward incident and all the 254 aboard passengers and crew remained safe. According to the airline officials, the Emirates Airline's flight from Sialkot to Dubai was cancelled and the passengers were returned by the airline management due to some technical faults in the aircraft caused by the hitting.
It was the second incident of this kind occurred at Sialkot international airport. Earlier, a stray bird had hit the engine of the same flight (EK-620) while it was landing at the airport here on June 02, 2018.

ISLAMABAD: There are high expectations from the all-powerful Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold free, fair and transparent elections but the present pre-polls environment is not satisfactory for two of the three largest political parties in the country.
While the PML-N top leadership is losing hope for free and fair elections, the co-chairperson of the PPP too doubts that the polls will be 100 percent fair.
Following electoral reforms package approved by the last Parliament, the ECP is all-powerful and even has upper hand as against the caretaker government. However, some recent events show that there are still some other players who are influencing the election process. In the opinion of some media commentators and election observers, the ECP needs to do much for the provision of evenplaying field for all the political parties besides addressing the concerns of many about the allegations of political engineering.
But now after PML-N's Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif and the PPP's Asif Ali Zardari expressed their doubts about the fairness of the elections, the challenge to hold the elections fairly and freely becomes bigger for the ECP.
Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was the first one to have said that hopes for a free and fair elections were dying slowly as the PML-N candidates were being forced and threatened to either stand as independents, join Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) or go to another party.
Sharif feared that repeat of Senate election was being played and "a similar Sanjrani model" was being followed. Nawaz said that a new political group of independents was being formed and brought together under the symbol of "jeep".
Interestingly Asif Ali Zardari, in his interview to Geo on Monday, not only doubted the fairness of the elections but spoke in a manner that he appeared like endorsing all points raised by Nawaz Sharif.
Zardari said, he didn't see elections to be 100 percent fair. He was not expecting political stability as a result of the 2018 elections, and predicted that a "Sanjrani" character would be made the prime minister. The symbol of "Jeep" also raised Zardari's eyebrows as he said that candidates with Jeep symbol would be in a dictating position after the July 25 elections. He believed that independent candidates will have an important role in the making of next government, and lamented that some of PPP leaders in Punjab also opted to contest the elections as independent candidates.
As the PML-N sees a threatening message for its candidates following the arrest of its candidate from Rawapindi Raja Qamarul Islam, the PPP's co-chairperson said that the of late arrest of his affiliate from his hometown "is an act with a message" for him.
The former president said that a message was given to him through the arrest of Ismail Dahri from Nawabshah. The PPP leader further said that Dahri was a small landowner and was involved in political canvassing in the area. He said, "Ismail wouldn't have been arrested if I had struck a deal with someone. In fact, there would have been arrests on my directions."
LAHORE : Home Minister Punjab Shoukat Javed Thursday on the directive of Punjab Chief Minister Prof Dr Hasan Askari, said that foolproof security will be provided to those candidates and political
candidates, leadership of political parties
Pakistan Observer, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

## Pakistan's only half

population registered as voters: ECP
The News, 5h July, 2018

Tough contest expected in PP-16 constituency
The News, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
leaders having serious life threats besides making arrangements for fair, free and impartial elections across the province.
In an interview, he said that the interim provincial government is responsible to provide a peaceful and conducive environment to voters during elections and protect their lives and property at every cost. He said special arrangements would be made to avert any untoward incident on the elections day and polling material would be transported to its destination under strict supervision.
Security arrangements for general elections have been completed in Punjab and the interim government is satisfied by the performance of security forces and he is determined to protect the lives and property of the masses during elections.
With regards to the impartiality of elections, he said, "We have been focusing on holding impartial polls and addressing the reservations and concerns of all political parties from the first day since the interim set-up was sworn in."He said that question does not arise at all for supporting any one or opposing. He said the police and the administration not to rest on their oars till the task of transparent election is achieved. Providing security to top leaders of mainstream political parties, like PPP, PTI and PML-N and other parties, should not be an extraordinary burden on the law-enforcement agencies," he maintained. He said equal opportunities were being provided to the candidates of all the political parties to run their election campaigns and election bylaws implemented through administration and police. He said the civil administration at district and divisional levels had been directed to address the election-related complaints immediately while the candidates should also inform the administration if they have any complaint. He said the Punjab caretaker government had appointed all the well-reputed police officers to conduct fair elections. He said that police prepared election security plan following the directions of government and ECP. He added that the police would not influence the election process at any stage. He said he had given directions to all concerned quarters to utilize all resources maintain law and order situation during elections.
Shoukat Javed who is former IGP equipped with lifelong unblemished experience made it crystal clear that provision of peaceful atmosphere for polling will be ensured on July 25 so that voters could use their right of franchise without any fear and danger," he said. He said "none of the candidates or political leaders will be allowed to take law in their hands and unscrupulous elements if any will be dealt severely. He said that all possible steps will be taken so that voters could use their right of franchise independently and video cameras will be installed for monitoring the sensitive polling stations. The utilization of information technology will also be made for peaceful and transparent holding of general elections and implementation of electoral code of conduct of the Election Commission will be ensured at every cost. Shoukat Javed said that troops of army, contingents of Pakistan Rangers and battalion of paramilitary forces besides police commandoes equipped with sophisticated weapons will assist the Election Commission of Pakistan at polling station level in addition to patrolling in all sensitive areas throughout the province. He said that he is personally monitoring the overall performance of administration and police and no compromise on proper implementation of code of conduct issued by the election commission. He said he will never spare any official found guilty of discharge of duty.
LAHORE: In a shocking revelation, the Election Commission of Pakistan has found that only half of the country's population is registered as voters. While there are understandably several reasons for the distressingly low number of voters ranging from their awareness, low motivation and logistical issues, it calls for serious attention from the political management to address this alienation.
According to an analysis of the final electoral rolls issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the Kohistan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has the lowest percentage of voters in Pakistan in terms of its population i.e., 20 percent, while the Jhelum district of Punjab has the highest as 77 percent of its population as registered voters.
The population of Kohistan is 784,711 out of which only 154,620 are registered as voters while out of Jhelum's 1,222,650 population some 945,508 are voters.
Known for a highly conservative society, Kohistan is considered one of the less developed and inaccessible districts of the country. As per the demographics of the district issued by the KP government literacy ratio ( 10 and above age group) in Kohistan is 11.08 percent with female literacy ratio of just three percent. In its 2017 ranking, Alif Ailaan (education advocacy group) ranked Kohistan at 141st position in the countrywide ranking out of 144 districts.
Separately in Balochistan, Kech district has the lowest percentage of voters i.e., 24 percent, FR Bannu in FATA 29 percent, Tharparkar in Sindh 35 percent and Rajanpur in Punjab i.e., 44 percent. In order words, Rajanpur has better percentage of registered voters than Islamabad and Balochistan.
Similarly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haripur has the highest percentage of voters i.e., 66 percent, Orakzai Agency in FATA also 66 percent, Awaran in Balochistan and Karachi Central in Sindh have 63 percent voters each.
Among provinces, Punjab is on top on the list is with 55 percent of its population as registered voters, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA 50 each, Sindh 47 while Islamabad has 38 percent of its population as voters. Balochistan is at the bottom with 35 percent of its population as registered voters.
RAWALPINDI: A very tough and close contest is expected to be seen between PML-N and PTI candidates in PP-16 in the general elections on July 25. No other political parties have fielded their candidates in this PP-16 constituency against PML-N and PTI contestants which means very close contest is likely to be held between the two for Punjab Assembly seat.
The PML-N has awarded ticket to Sheikh Arslan Hafeez present chairman of his Union Council elected in local bodies elections held two years ago. Similarly, PTI has pitched Raja Rashid Hafeez


Imran Sher's plea against tribunal rejected
The Nation, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Nawaz, Maryam seek 7-day delay of Avenfield verdict Gulf News, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

First minority Hindu
woman to contest on general seat from Thar Desert
Gulf News, $5^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
from this constituency. According to a survey and views gathered from people chances of both these candidates are 50/50. However, PML-N's Arslan Hafeez said that he would pull out a certain win against his PTI political opponent without any problem.
During his talk with 'The News' here Tuesday Arslan Hafeez gave reasons on which basis he is confident to emerge victorious from PP-16.
Sheikh Arslan told that he was associated with PML-N for over the last 28 years. From my college days I got attached with PML-N and became President of MSF in 1989. "After completion of my education I was elected as councillor of Union Council in the year 2000 and continued to serve on people of my area for 7 consecutive years. As I delivered properly people again voted me as UC chairman in the local bodies elections held in 2016 under the PML-N. Besides serving the citizens and taken development and welfare steps in my UC, I have also remained active in movements for freedom of judiciary and governor rule. Owing to my relentless services, the leadership of PML-N has now awarded ticket to contest from PP-16 for Provincial Assembly seat.
Talking about his manifesto to be enforced if elected from this constituency, Sheikh Arslan said among the 7 improvement of health system and education sector would be my first major priorities. He said health units would be opened at constituency level and better health services would be provided to patients on cheaper rates. Qualified and experienced doctors and medical staff would be deputed in clinics. Similarly, for improvement in education sector, Sheikh Arslan said that he would focus on recruiting private teachers in government educational institution on daily wage basis.
LAHORE - The Lahore High Court Wednesday turned down a petition of Imran Sher Ali, brother of former minister Abid Sher Ali, against rejection of his nomination papers by an appellate tribunal from PP-117, Faisalabad. A two-member bench headed by Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi passed the order by upholding the decision of the appellate tribunal against Imran Sher Ali.
A returning officer had accepted nomination papers of Imran Sher Ali but an appellate tribunal set aside the decision of the RO and disqualified him to contest the general election. However, Imran Sher Ali challenged the decision saying that an objection was raised against him that he was a defaulter of Sngpl. The petitioner through his counsel said that he did not own the factory for which he was declared defaulter of SNGPL. He said a new person had owned the factory but still the name of the petitioner was in the record of sui gas department. He said under the law he was not responsible for any liability of the factory as he had already sold it. The petitioner prayed to the court to set aside the decision of the tribunal and allow him to contest the election. However, the bench, after hearing arguments of both sides, dismissed the petition of Imran Sher Ali.
Another division bench led by Justice Shams Mahmood Mirza allowed petition of two brothers Saeed Akbar Niwani and Rasheed Akbar Niwani against rejection of their nomination papers by an appellate tribunal to contest election from NA-98 and PP-90 Bhakkar respectively. An appellate tribunal had disqualified both brothers to contest election on the basis of a Supreme Court's decision about their disqualification in 2013 for having fake degrees.
Niwani brothers had moved the petition through Advocate Anwarul Haq Pannu arguing that the tribunal passed the impugned decision against the facts. Their counsel contended that they had been acquitted in the fake degree case by the high court and provisions of the Article 62 of the Constitution did not apply on them. After hearing arguments, the bench set aside the tribunal's decision and allowed Niwani brothers to contest the polls.
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz submitted applications in the accountability court on Thursday seeking a seven-day delay in the announcement of the verdict in the Avenfield corruption reference. The application came a day before the court was set to announce the verdict on July 6 (Friday) after reserving the verdict earlier.The counsel for Sharif family requested a seven-day exemption from accountability proceedings as the father and daughter are currently in London to tend to the ailing Begum Kulsoom Nawaz (wife of Nawaz Sharif). In the applications compiled on behalf of Nawaz Sharif and his daughter, Maryam, the counsel cited Begum Kulsoom Nawaz's poor health as the reason for the family's request to postpone the verdict. "The doctors treating Maryam's mother have opined that the condition of Begum Kulsoom is improving and that they planned to reduce her sedation on July 4 and wake her over the next 48 hours," read the petition submitted by the defence counsel Amjad Parvez. "Furthermore, the doctors advised that the continuous presence and support of the family will help her [Begum Kulsoom]" it added.
ISLAMABAD: Sunita Parmar, a 31-year-old Hindu woman, has emerged as a beacon of hope not only for minorities but also for women, who make up 52 per cent of the country's 220 million population. Parmar has taken a difficult decision of contesting general elections being held on July 25 and is confident of challenging stereotypes in the process. Hailing from Tharparker's Hindu Meghwar community, Sunita has made history as the first Hindu woman to contest provincial assembly election. She is contesting from Tharparkar district (constituency number PS56) in Pakistan's southern Sindh province as an independent candidate. Unveiling her agenda in her native town of Islamkot, Sunita vowed to improve standards of education for women and revitalise poor health facilities in Thar. "I will try to improve standards of education for women and health facilities in Tharparkar," she said. "Previous governments did nothing for the people of this area. Even in the 21st Century, we lack basic health facilities and proper educational institutes for women," Sunita said. Despite hardships and pressure from society (to stop studying), she did her Masters in Education. "I believe in girl's education. This is the only way to make women stronger and help them prosper," she said. "Gone are the days when women were supposed to be weaker and inferior. I am confident of winning the election," Sunita said. Backed by her family, relatives and the community, Sunita is breaking several social and political barriers, AI Arabiya English reported. "This is 21st Century and we are even ready to fight the lion," a confident Parmar said. In march this year, Krishna


Kumari Kolhi from Pakistan's Sindh become the first-ever Hindu Dalit woman Senator. Kolhi, 39, from Thar is a member of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), one of the main political parties in Pakistan. She won the election for the reserved seat for women from Sindh province. Her election was a major milestone for women and minority rights in Pakistan. "Women like Sunita and Krishna are real face of Pakistan. I'm sure they will contribute to make Pakistan prosper," Zareen Gul, a women's rights activist said.

ISLAMABAD: As many as 12,570 candidates will contest the upcoming general elections for National Assembly and provincial assembly seats, according to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).
Initially, 21,482 candidates filed nomination papers, but the final list released by ECP confirms that only 12,570 will contest the July 25 elections. A total of 3,675 contestants are vying for 272 general seats of the National Assembly (NA) whereas 8,895 are contesting for 577 general seats of the four provincial assemblies (PA). Pakistan's parliament consists of the president and two Houses known as the National Assembly and the Senate. Voting for the lower house, the National Assembly, will be held on July 25 - on a first-past-the-post voting method. There are 70 more seats reserved for women and minorities, bringing the total to 342 seats. Voting for NA and four provincial assemblies will take place at the same time. Around 172 women have entered the race for National Assembly and 386 for provincial legislatures in the upcoming elections. A total of 157 non-Muslims are taking part in elections 2018 of which 44 will contest for NA seats and the remaining 113 for PA seats. The seats in the National Assembly are allocated to each province and the federal capital on the basis of population. The largest numbers of contestants come from Punjab province where 1,696 contestants are vying for National Assembly seats while a total of 4,242 for the provincial legislature. Moreover, 73 women are in the run for NA and 174 for the PA of the largest province by population whereas 32 non-Muslims are also contesting for the Punjab assembly. In second-largest populous province of Sindh, a total of 872 are contesting for the National Assembly seats and 2,382 for the Sindh assembly, including 824 for general seats of NA and 2,252 for the provincial legislature. Nearly 48 women will be contesting for NA seats and 91 for the PA seats. Sindh boasts the highest number of non-Muslim candidates in PA which is 39.
According to the data shared by the Election Commission of Pakistan, around 760 candidates are contesting for the NA seats from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 1,264 for the PA of which 725 will be competing for the general seats of NA and 1,165 of provincial general seats. Around 35 women are contesting for NA and 79 for the PA besides 20 non-Muslims for the PA seats. Pakistan's southwestern province of Balochistan has the lowest number of candidates where 303 candidates are contending for National Assembly seats while 1,007 for its PA seats. The province sees the participation of nearly 58 women for both NA and PA seats whereas 22 non-Muslims are contesting for the provincial assembly.
Bara IDPs want polling
booths at Jalozai camp
DAWN News, $4^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

PTI hopes to form govt in centre, provinces
Express Tribune, $4^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

[^0]PESHAWAR: The elders of the internally displaced persons from Bara tehsil of Khyber region have demanded of Election Commission of Pakistan to establish polling booths for them at Jalozai camp so that they could cast their votes in the upcoming polls.
Addressing a news conference at Peshawar Press Club on Tuesday, Tehreek-i-Mutasereen Rabita Committee Bara president Namdar Afridi said that majority of the displaced families had yet to return to their native towns in Khyber region. He said that such people would not be able to cost their vote in the upcoming general elections. He said that it would be quite difficult for IDPs, especially women, to travel from camps to their native areas on the polling day due to imposition of curfew. He said that ECP should establish polling booths for them at Jalozai camp so that they could exercise their right to vote. Mr Afridi said that more than 60 per cent displaced youth in the Jalozai camp were taking active part in election campaign. He said that they would take part in the upcoming general elections, scheduled to be held on July 25 . He urged the ECP to take steps to ensure maximum participation of IDPs in the elections.
Accompanied by IDPs elders Khyal Baz, Ishfaq Afridi, Khan Baz and others, Mr Afridi said that unfamiliar faces were fielded by different political and religious parties to contest elections for NA44 in Khyber Agency. He said that IDPs would support only those candidates, who had raised voice for their rights. Mr Afridi said that they would support PTI candidate for NA-44 Mohammad Iqbal Afridi, who had raised voice for their rights. He said that they had already launched an election campaign for him.
NOWSHERA: Having completed five years in power in the province, the PTI now aims to form a national government in the centre. This was stated by former Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) chief minister Pervez Khattak while addressing various election rallies in his constituency on Tuesday $3^{\text {rd }}$ July. Khattak claimed that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had emerged as the largest party in the country and that the efforts of the party chairman Imran Khan are about to bear fruit over 20 years after forming the party. He claimed that once PTI takes power, 'Awami Raaj' would be established in the country, adding that no other party could compete with them.
Talking about the work his government had done in its five-year stint, Khattak claimed that they had initiated historic reforms which had no precedence in the past. He also lashed out at political opponents who were spreading malicious propaganda against the PTI on social media because they were certain of their defeat. Khattak also reserved criticism for the Pakistan Muslim LeagueNawaz (PML-N), stating that the era of dominance of the party from Raiwind had come to an end. He promised that the PTI of will retrieve the looted wealth of the nation and would spend it on the welfare of the people.

PESHAWAR: The provincial government will need to install around 13,000 closed circuit television cameras across the province over the next three weeks if it hopes to closely monitor proceedings at


ANP promises to develop tribal districts<br>Express Tribune, $4^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

some the most sensitive polling stations in the upcoming general elections. The entire exercise may cost the province around Rs150 million.
Sources in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) police and the Home and Tribal Affairs Department have disclosed that there are around 12,860 polling booths and stations in the province which will be monitored using closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras as per the directions of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The ECP has already shared a list of the polling stations and the category they fall in. The tribal areas, which fall in the erstwhile federally administered tribal areas (FATA) would require 938 cameras to be installed while the remaining 11,922 cameras will be installed in the rest of the province. "The cameras would be installed in polling booths for surveillance," said an official of the K-P government close to the matter.
Officials dealing the matter further said that the district administration, or the deputy commissioner of the respective district, would be responsible for arranging the cameras and the K-P government would provide them with the necessary finances to complete the job. "We have set the cost for a camera at Rs10,000 and each polling booth would be provided with a camera," said another senior official dealing with the matter. "There are certain areas where CCTV cameras would not be feasible so there, video cameras would be used for surveillance," the official said while referring to tribal districts where there is little internet or mobile connectivity or even electricity. "The estimated cost of the exercise would be around Rs150million including Rs115million for K-P," the official said, adding that they have requested the K-P finance department for the budget to finance the cameras. The officials added that some polling stations have been created in buildings where cameras have already been installed by the government, hence only a few areas require the installation of cameras. "The district administrations had demanded funds for the purchase and installation of cameras, computers, UPS and solar panels and its cost was around Rs320 million but then the government decided to rent the cameras rather than purchasing them since the systems would be required only for a day," noted another official of K-P government dealing the matter.

## Security needs

Regarding the needs of the police force to ensure stringent security arrangements during the elections, senior officials of the K-P police and documents say that the provincial police force requires a strength of 110,000 personnel to guard polling stations. Since the police force in the entire province only numbers 79,935 personnel, the police department needs an additional 30,000 officers. "We have requested the Gilgit-Baltistan government, Azad Jammu Kashmir government [to provide police support] and for the provision of frontier constabulary to meet the required strength," said a senior official of the police department. As per police department calculations, they will also be relying on around 22,304 officials of the civil defense, forest guards, excise and taxation, Levies, Khassadar, anti-corruption, university security guards, traffic warden, Rescue 1122, lady health workers (as lady constables at female polling stations) and ex-servicemen to shore up their numbers to ensure security.

## Enhance vigilance

As the elections near, the interim provincial government has decided to enhance vigilance to maintain security in the province. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (retired) Dost Muhammad Khan has directed the administration to be vigilant and keep an eye on the movement of suspicious people, terrorists, and Afghan refugees in their respective areas. The administration should monitor the entry and exit routes to and from the province, enhance the intelligence sharing amongst different intelligence outfits and redeploy at police stations in sensitive areas.
Moreover, he directed officials to make complete arrangements, including for food and other essentials. The interim chief minister also directed to cancel the holidays of all psychiatrists of public sector hospitals throughout the province. He gave these directives as Hazara Division Commissioner Amjad Ali Khan and Regional Police Officer Muhammad Alam Shinwari gave a detailed presentation on the arrangements for elections in the region. Justice (retired) Dost directed the district administration and police officers to ensure availability of transportation for security personnel deployed in remote areas in the division. In this regard, the administration and police were allowed to make use of locally available transport for deployment of officers. Moreover, he directed that the healthcare unit and the health workers should be deployed in every part of the district to provide emergency healthcare, especially in remote areas, during the elections. Polling stations too should be equipped with first aid and other equipment to deal with emergencies.
BAJAUR: With the tribal areas merged into Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa after a landmark constitutional amendment cleared in the penultimate session of the provincial assembly, one party is aiming to work on developing these new sectors if it is elected into power. Awami National Party (ANP) Provincial President Ameer Haider Hoti on Tuesday said that if elected, his party will develop the tribal districts and make them prosperous.
Addressing a public gathering at the Government Girls High School ground in Khar on Tuesday, he said that provision of basic and modern facilities to the people of tribal districts was at the top of their election manifesto. He said the people of tribal districts, who always rendered tremendous sacrifices for the country, had been deprived of basic and modern facilities. The ANP leader and former provincial chief minister went on to say that his party will not only ensure basic and modern facilities to its people but would make the tribal districts even more developed and prosperous than some settled areas. He went on to claim that the ANP was the only party in the province which knew the real problems plaguing people apart from having a good handle on the needs of tribal district residents.
Pointing to the record of their government from 2008 to 2013 , Hoti said that at least one university will be set up in each tribal district should his party return to the power corridors in the upcoming
'All options are open': Fazl on becoming PTI's coalition partner in future Geo News, $4^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

Shehbaz appears before NAB in Saaf Pani, Punjab Power corruption cases Geo News, $4^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

No reshuffiling in BMP
belying free polls claims
The Nation, $4^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018
general elections. The ANP leader also lashed out at the PTI for misguiding the people of the province by doing little more than just changing names. He claimed that the PTI had failed to fulfil its commitment. The gathering, arranged by ANP local chapter, was also addressed by Malik Gul Zada and Gul Afzal Khan, ANP candidates for NA-40 and NA-41 respectively.
ISLAMABAD: Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the religiouspolitical alliance has kept its options open if asked to join Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government as a coalition partner. "We have to give space to each other," Rehman responded to a question asked by Capital Talk's anchor Hamid Mir. "Its not in the country's interest to have deadlock."
Rehman said that the language used by Imran in criticism over him lacks dignity and it reflects his shallowness. "A person's stature is determined by the quality of language he uses. The language used by Imran is not of a person of character," he added. The MMA chief called the five-year performance of PTI's government in Khyber Pakhtunkhuwa 'disappointing', saying that Imran's party criticizes the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government of taking loans but the party itself has indebted the province by billions.
Rehman said that the reason behind MMA's dissolution was the differences over the boycott of the 2008 polls. Responding to a question, he said that the Jamat-e-Islami and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl) maintains differences over FATA reforms. "This is a political issue, we have our differences on it, but maintains agreement on many other points." He added that the issue is history now as the parliament passed the amendment."We wanted the government to take on board the people of FATA over the issue," he said.

LAHORE: Former chief minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz president Shehbaz Sharif appeared before the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Wednesday in relation to an ongoing probe into the Saaf Pani Company and Punjab Power Company corruption cases.
The accountability watchdog had summoned Shehbaz on July 5 over allegations that the former provincial chief minister misused his authority during his tenure and was involved in corruption.
Shehbaz, due to personal commitments, had requested to be summoned a day earlier (July 4), and subsequently appeared before NAB Lahore office earlier today.
On June 26, NAB arrested Engineer Qamarul Islam Raja - former chairman of Saaf Pani Company and PML-N's ticket holder from NA-59 Rawalpindi-III - for his alleged role in awarding contracts to 'favourites'.
NAB officials also apprehended former CEO of the company, Wasim Ajmal, who is accused of making changes to the company's documents after project bidding in violation of the rules.
The Punjab government had established Saaf Pani Company to conceive, plan, design, execute and manage projects for the provision of safe drinking water, in terms of both access and quality, to the communities living in unserved and underserved areas i.e. rural and peri-urban areas of the province.
DERA GHAZI KHAN: There are three weeks left to the general elections scheduled to be held on July 25, but, unlike other departments, no major transfer/posting could be made in the Border Military Police (BMP) administration, a local police force for de-excluded area commonly known as tribal area, to ensure transparency in the election.
Many politically-tainted Jamadar (circle officers) are still posted on key posts in the constituency of their family members or relatives and, the public fears, the influential officers will definitely attempt to manipulate the election results. Local civil society members and social activists, even political leaders have expressed their apprehensions that without reshuffling of the "blue-eyed officers" transparency could not be expected in election, arguing that these circle officers can easily play vital role in pre-poll rigging for power politics in tribal area.
According local political leaders who requested anonymity, Jamadar Azmat Sher Qaisrani is posted as Circle Officer Satta, in the constituency of PP-285, where his cousin namely Sardar Confucius Imam Qaisraniis is contesting election as independent candidate with the symbol of Pitcher. Similarly, Jamadar Rizam Khan Khosa is posted as Circle Officer Toman Khosa, in the constituency of PP-287, where his uncle namely Sardar Mohsin Atta Khan Khosa is contesting election as independent candidate with the symbol of Bucket.
Jamadar Azhar Hassan Tipu Qaisrani is posted as circle officer Likhani, in the areas of PP-285 and NA-189, where his cousin Mrs Shamoona Abreen is contesting election on the PML-N ticket. Similarly Jamadar Muhammad Umer Khan Buzdar is posted as circle officer Barthi, in constituency of PP-286, where his real brother Sardar Usman Khan Buzdar is candidate of Pakistan Tehreek-eInsaf.
Jamadar Ejaz Ahmad Khan Leghari is posted as circle officer Sakhi Sarwar in NA-191, where his cousin Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari is a PML-N candidate. Moreover, Jamadar Abdullah Khan Leghari posted as circle officer Rakhi Gauj, Dafadar Kareem Nawaz Khan posted as circle officer Bawata and Dafadar Saeed Ahmad Khan posted as circle officer Khar are presently serving in the constituency of Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari who is also Sardar of Leghari tribe. In fact, the BMP administration never has reshuffled officers on permanent basis for general election in the past like the Punjab Police department transfer / posting policy. Only election duty was assigned to BMP personnel in last 2013 election.
Talking to The Nation, Deputy Commissioner / Senior Commandant BMP Akbar Ali Bhatti said that on June 27, 2018, the DG Khan DC Office had sought recommendations from the Political Assistant / Commandant BMP on transfers and postings. "Now Lists of BMP personnel, keeping in view the political connections, have been prepared and action would be taken as per BMP rules," he claimed.


208 NA, 277 PA candidates contest elections from Pindi Division
The Nation, $4^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

He assured that the district administration will ensure fair, free and transparent election across the district, particularly in the de-excluded area (tribal areas) where tribal elders are contesting election. "Insha Allah every voter will cost his/ her vote freely without fear or favour" he asserted.

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Wednesday decided that election candidates undergoing an investigation by the bureau will not be arrested until general elections on July 25. The anti-corruption body said that suspects, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders, are accused of causing damage of Rs19 billion to a national project.
The NAB said it has taken a detailed look into the cases against the PML-N leaders including the cases against former foreign minister Khawaja Asif. The cases against Asif, Rana Afzal and Rana Mashhood have been delayed until the elections, said the accountability watchdog. The NAB is holding an inquiry against a number of political leaders in relation to alleged corruption in projects. The bureau on Tuesday arrested former Karachi Port Trust (KPT) chairman Jawed Hanif in an ongoing inquiry.
According to the bureau, the former chairman is accused of misuse of power and illegal appointments in the department, which cost the government Rs2.80 billion. On June 26, NAB Lahore had arrested PML-N ticket holder Qamarul Islam from NA-59 Rawalpindi-III in connection with Punjab Saaf Pani Company corruption case. The arrest came a day after the PML-N fielded Islam against disgruntled PML-N leader Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan in the NA-59 constituency.
An inquiry was authorised against former Punjab Land Development Company director general Ahad Cheema, Bismillah Engineering Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Shahid Shafique, Alam Faridi, owners, officers and others of Lahore Kasa Developers, officers of Lahore Development Authority for inflicting Rs660 million to the national exchequer due to involvement in alleged corruption and abuse of authority. The meeting also authorised conducting an inquiry against the management and others of Punjab Sports Board and Youth festival for involvement in corruption and misuse of authority causing Rs1739 million losses to the national exchequer.
EBM authorised the filing of corruption reference against former Sindh IG Ghulam Haider Jamali and others for inflicting losses of Rs 160.25 million to the national exchequer due to corruption and abuse of authority. Executive Board authorised conducting investigations against the management of State Bank Cooperative Housing Society, officers and others of Revenue Department Karachi for illegally establishing State Bank Cooperative Housing Society on state land which inflicted losses to the national exchequers. EBM authorised conducting of inquiry against officers and officials of Sindh Social Relief Fund. They are accused of inflicting Rs13.04 billion losses in the corruption of funds.
EBM authorised conducting an inquiry against Sindh Health Department's HIVIAIDS Control Programme official Dr Muhammad Younas Chachar and others for causing Rs 35.236 million losses, abuse of authority and corruption. EBM approved conducting an inquiry against Sindh secretary health and others for abuse of authority and corruption in awarding contracts. This caused Rs 976 million losses to the national exchequer.
EBM authorised closing inquiry management and others of Sardar Begum Dental College Peshawar due to the absence of evidence. EBM authorised conducting an inquiry against Alrazi Medical College. They have been accused of misuse of authority and cheating students.EBM authorised referring inquiry against former Fata Development Authority CEO and others to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief secretary to verify complaints of allegedly recruiting 414.
EBM approved inquiry against officers and officials for awarding contracts to favourites by misusing authority which caused losses of Rs90 million to the national exchequer. EBM authorised conducting an inquiry against officers and officials of billion tree tsunami. They have been accused of inflicting Rs19 billion losses to the national kitty due to corruption in the funds of the project. EBM approved conducting an inquiry against former Quetta Development Authority director general Masood Ahmed Barkati. He has been accused of allotting plots to Chilten Extension Housing Scheme, Quetta, which caused Rs7.4 million losses to the national exchequer.
EBM approved investigations against former Quetta Development Authority director general Masood Ahmed Barkati for allotting plots in Zarghon Housing Scheme and Karani Housing Scheme, causing Rs30.27 million losses to the national exchequer. EBM approved filing a supplementary reference against former Water and Sanitation Agency, Quetta managing director Hamid Latif and others for having assets beyond known sources of income, causing Rs354.9 million losses to the national exchequer.
EBM approved Rs34.375 million plea bargain application of reference no 5/2008 Estate vs Hafizur Rehman. EBM approved filing reference against former Punjab IG in corruption in official funds of Vehari Police and misuse of authority. They have inflicted losses of millions of rupee to the national exchequer.
RAWALPINDI: A total of 208 National Assembly and 277 Provincial Assembly candidates are contesting general elections 2018 in Rawalpindi Division including Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Attock, Jhelum and Islamabad.

According to details, 75 candidates are contesting general elections from Rawalpindi, 21 from Chakwal, 15 from Attock, 24 from Jhelum and 73 from Islamabad for 16 constituencies of National Assembly and 27 for provincial assembly constituencies of the division.
NA-52 to NA-54, three constituencies are in Islamabad, while NA-55 to NA-56, two constituencies are in Attock, seven in Rawalpindi, NA-57 to NA-63, two of Chakwal, NA-66 and NA-67 and two constituencies in Jhelum. Similarly, 166 Provincial Assembly candidates are in the field from Rawalpindi, 35 from Chakwal, 37 from Attock and 39 from Jhelum districts of the division. Five provincial assembly constituencies from PP-1 to PP-5 are in Attock district, 15 constituencies, PP-6

to PP-20 are in Rawalpindi district, four constituencies, PP-21 to PP-24 are in Chakwal district while three Jhelum constituencies are from PP-25 to PP-27.
Regional Election Commissioner Majid Sharif Dogar informed that the Election Commission is finalizing all the arrangements for upcoming elections. The training is also being imparted to election officers, he added.
According to district Election Commissioner, Rawalpindi-I, Saleem Akhtar Khan, 75 National Assembly (NA) and 166 Provincial Assembly (PA) candidates are contesting general elections 2018 in Rawalpindi district including former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, former PM, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed and Hanif Abbasi.
According to the final lists issued by Returning Officers here, total 143 nomination papers for seven National Assembly seats, NA-57 to NA-63 of the district were filed and 402 for 15 provincial assembly seats, PP-6 to PP-20.
LONDON: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's (PML-N) supreme leader and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday has pleaded the Accountability Court (AC) to postponed the Avenfield reference case verdict for few days.
While talking to media here in London Nawaz said, "I am not a dictator who will run away from the court", " my wife has been on ventilator since the last 21 days and I want to hear the decision while standing in the courtroom where I and my daughter have presented ourselves for more than 100 times". Whether the ruling is in our favour or otherwise we will return to Pakistan, he added.
On a query regarding Kalsoom's health, Nawaz stated she underwent a surgery yesterday and doctors are very hopeful that she will be out of danger in coming days. As soon as Kalsoom's condition improved I will go back to Pakistan, he asserted
Yesterday, the Accountability Court (AC) has reserved the verdict in the Avenfield corruption reference against the Sharif family.
According to the details, the decision will be announced on 6 July. Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, daughter Maryam, Hussain Nawaz, Hassan Nawaz and Capt Safdar (Retd) were facing the three corruption references in the AC filed by National Accountability Bureau (NAB).
Justice Muhammad Bashir on the hearing of 29 June directed the Maryam Nawaz's lawyer Amjad Pervaiz to conclude his final arguments on 2 July but the hearing was adjourned till Tuesday as Amjad Perviz could not conclude the arguments.
LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and ex-Punjab chief minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that he was overwhelmed by the response of the people during his electioneering rally from Lahore to Sahiwal. Taking to Twitter in a bid to express gratitude, Shehbaz said the love and affection with which people welcomed his rally, made him "feel that they owned the PML-N and it was like every place between the two cities was not only the hub but home of his party".
"The way youth surrounded my vehicle everywhere and expressed their sentiment is un-state able," Shehbaz stated. He also shared the picture of a young boy who tried to take pictures of the PML-N rally while riding his bicycle, and wrote, "I saw him taking my picture in Okara when he found out that I was passing by. Look at the excitement and determination on his face. It is young children like him who are the future of this country and who we owe a more peaceful and prosperous Pakistan."
Earlier at the PML-N Workers' Convention in Sahiwal, Shehbaz said that he had selflessly served the masses during his five-year tenure in Punjab.
"Every time I visited you... I was here to give something. But now, it is your turn," he said, adding that the PML-N-led government had rid the country of the menaces of load shedding and terrorism.
Training guns at his opponents, he said that Pakistan People's Party (PPP), on the other hand, had ruined Karachi.
"People of Sindh, during my visit to Karachi, told me that Asif Ali Zardari had done nothing. Trust me when I say that the transport system in Punjab's Toba Tek Singh is better than the one that is operational in Karachi," he said. He also thanked the people of Sahiwal for their overwhelming welcome.

OKARA: A total of 48 candidates including a woman and a transgender have been allotted election symbols to contest for four National Assembly [NA] seats in Okara district. Similarly, as many as 118 candidates including three women have been allotted election symbols for eight seats of Provincial Assembly.
In NA-141, nine candidates are contesting election including former MNA Ch Nadeem Abbas Rubera of PML-N. His panel includes his younger brother Ch Ghulam Raza Rubera and former MPA Ch Javed Allauddin who are contesting election from PP-190 Okara-VIII and PP-183 Okara-I respectively. The PTI panel, for NA, comprises former state minister for information Samsam Ali Bukhari having panel of Rai Hammad Aslam Kharal at PP-190 and Mehr Javed Iqbal Bhonana at PP-183. Former PTI MPA Ch Masoon Shafqat Rubera, son of former MNA Ch Shafqat Abbas Rubera, from whom the PTI ticket was withdrawn, is also contesting election for National Assembly from this constituency along with former MPA Malik Akram Bhatti at PP-183 and his wife Noorul Ain at PP-190. The PPP panel comprises Rai Ghulam Mujtaba Kharal for NA; Rai Faisal Mian Khan Kharal for PP-190 and Rana Abdul Rehman for PP-183. MMA candidate Dr Liaqat Ali Kausar is also in election race for National Assembly. The panel of independent candidates includes Ch Khalilur Rehman for NA; Rai Ali Noor Kharal for PP-190 and Arif Khan Lashari for PP-183.


In NA-142 Okara-II, 12 candidates have been allotted election symbols including a woman and a transgender. Prominent amongst these are: PML-N panel comprises former MNA Ch Riazul Haq for NA; former provincial minister Mian Yawar Zaman for PP-188 and Ch Muneebul Haq for PP-189. The PTI panel includes Rao Hassan Sikander, son of former defence minister Rao Sikander Iqbal (late) for NA; Ch Saleem Sadiq for PP-189 and Abdullah Tahir for PP-188. Besides, Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) candidate Shumaila Shaukat is also contesting election for the NA seat with TLP candidate Rao Maqsood Ahmed for PP-189. A transgender namely Arsalan Nayyab Ali is also contesting for the NA seat. PPP panel comprises Nawab Tariq Pathan for NA; Rao Rafique Sajid for PP-189 and Mehr Javed Naurang for PP-188. Former Okara Municipal Committee vice chairman Mian Abdur Rasheed Booti with election symbol 'Bottle' is contesting election for the NA seat as an independent candidate.
In NA-143, 14 candidates have been allotted election symbols. PML-N candidates include Rao Muhammad Ajmal Khan for NA, former MPA Malik Ali Abbas Khokhar for PP-187. Raza Ali Gillani, candidate from PP-184, refused to accept the PML-N ticket and is now contesting election as an independent candidate with election symbol Scooter. PML-N candidate Rao Ajmal Khan has joined hands with another independent candidate Syeda Mamnat Mohsin popularly known as Jugnu Mohsin. The PTI panel in this NA comprises Syed Gulzar Sibtain for National Assembly seat and PTI district president Ch Tariq Irshad Khan for PP-187.
In NA-144, PML-N panel includes former MNA Mian Moeen Khan Wattoo for NA seat and former MPA Ch Iftikhar Hussain Chachar for PP-186. In PP-185, Raza Ali Gillani is an independent candidate. In this NA constituency, independent candidate Mian Manzoor Ahmed Khan Wattoo is contesting for NA; his son Mian Khurram Jahangir Khan Wattoo is contesting for Provincial Assembly seat from PP-186 and former MNA Daughter Rubina Shaheen Wattoo from PP-185.
MULTAN: Politicians in Pakistan will do anything in their power to get elected, be it bribing voters, relying on the biradari system or using their positions as pirs and custodians of shrines to gain support. Multan's PP-195 constituency is a prime example of how biradari, a caste system, decides who will win the elections in certain constituencies.
The Ansari biradari has over 70,000 votes in PP-195. The support of the Ansaris can sway elections in any one's favour as the entire community votes as as a single unit. Since 1993, only candidates backed by the Ansaris have won. In 2008, the PMI-N's Aamir Saeed Ansari had won the elections and in 2013 Javed Akhtar on PTI's ticket was elected from the constituency. Both candidates had the support of the Ansari biradari. However, fed up with hollow promises made by the leaders they have chosen, this time around some members of the biradiri have decided to stand as independent candidates.

ISLAMABAD: Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal on Wednesday announced to hold rallies in Multan, Rawalpindi and Karachi on July 13, 14 and 15 respectively for electioneering.
Speaking in a press conference after the alliance's supreme council meeting, the MMA leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that a list of candidates has been formulated. "191 candidates for the NA seats, 404 candidates for the provincial seats and as many as 35 women are contesting for the general seats on MMA ticket," he said. "We will visit Abbottabad on July 21 and Malakand on July 22," he announced.
Rehman said that the caretaker government holds the responsibility to conduct transparent and ontime elections, adding that there should not be the influence of NAB and courts on the polls. "Few days back a man traveled abroad despite being named in the ECL," Rehman said in reference to the Zulfi Bukhari case.
The MMA leader said that the religious-political parties alliance wants timely elections as according to the constitution. Responding to the PTI chief, who recently called him 'a magnet drawn to power' as he becomes a coalition partner with every ruling party, Rehman said that a magnet does not draw but attract others towards it.

MULTAN: Around 165 prisoners, confined in three prisons of Multan, have applied for postal ballots to cast their votes in the general election scheduled for July 25, jail officials said on Wednesday. Superintendent New Central Jail Multan Mohsin Rafiq Chaudhry told APP that requests of 149 prisoners were sent to District Returning Officer (DRO) Multan Tuesday last to enable them cast their votes.
Another sixteen inmates from district jail Multan, mostly under-trials, have sent their requests to DRO Multan for postal ballots, said jail superintendent Amir Qureshi. However, none of the female prisoners confined in women jail Multan applied for the postal ballot for want of computerised national identity cards (CNICs).
The jail officials said they had asked all the inmates that they can apply for postal ballots provided they have their identity cards and willing to cast vote. However, only 149 prisoners out of total strength of 2,200 from new central jail and sixteen out of around 750 prisoners of district jail nodded in affirmative and their requests were sentto the DRO.
MULTAN: Multan Deputy Election Commissioner Shakeel Ahmed said there was a significant interest among people to avail the postal ballot service to cast their votes for General Elections 2018. He added that a large number of government employees and people with disabilities were contacting the election commission office to avail the service and seek information. He expressed these views while speaking to the media in Multan on Tuesday.
He maintained that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) set July 5 and July 10 as the deadline for submission of forms with the respective returning officers. He pointed out that


DRI, UNDP to jointly
launch comprehensive election guide
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No reshuffling in BMP
belying free polls claims
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government employees engaged in performing duties would submit forms by July 10. However, other employees would submit their forms by July 5.
"There is no need to install tickets on postal form envelops as ECP has signed an agreement with Pakistan Post," he mentioned. The election commission would pay postal dues soon after the elections to the Pakistan Postal Service. Shakeel Ahmed said that employees, people with disabilities and prisoners would post forms, available with ROs or election commission offices, to their respective ROs.

QUETTA: As the election fever sweeps the nation, the women are also coming to the forefront in the politics of Balochistan. As many as 83 women candidates are contesting from the province for general and reserved seats for the Balochistan Assembly and National Assembly. At least 25 women are contesting for general seats; seven for NA and 18 for provincial assembly.
Of the total 25,13 women belong to eight different political parties while 12 are contesting as independent candidates. Two women have stepped into the battleground for NA-265; Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, who is the current speaker Balochistan Assembly, and Yasmeen Lehri, who has served as a member of the Balochistan Assembly on a reserved seat. Moreover, two women candidates each will also be contesting from provincial constituencies PB-13, PB-29, and PB-47.
The women candidates contesting elections from PB-13 include Zareen Gul from Pakistan Peoples Party and independent candidate Rahat Jamali. From PB-29, Raheela Hameed Durrani and Momina Babar, an independent candidate, will go against one another, while PPP's Bushra and Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal's Aasma will go head-to-head for the PB-47 seat. Moreover, Zubaida Jalal, who was elected as MNA from Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid seat in 2002 general election, is also contesting for a general seat on the ticket of Balochistan Awami Party.
As for the reserved seats, the names of 58 female candidates have been submitted. Around 17 women will contest for the four reserved seats of National Assembly, while 41 candidates will fight for 11 reserved seats of the provincial assembly.
ISLAMABAD: Democracy Reporting International (DRI) in collaboration with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) will launch a comprehensive Election Guide on July 5 in Islamabad. The guide has been developed with a view to facilitate domestic and international observers as well as media and civil society. It provides an up to date summary of key features of electoral framework in Pakistan encompassing constitutional and legal provisions related to process of election.
The guide is based on improvements made in the legal framework through Elections Act 2017 that was an outcome of long and multi-partisan efforts aimed at electoral reforms. The guide, besides referring to international standards, provides sources of further information to equip the media, civil society, citizens and other actors engaged in the electoral process with detailed knowledge regarding different aspects and phases of elections.
Different phases of an electoral process from candidacy nominations to campaign and preparations for Election day to polling, counting and the results process are elaborated in the light of country's legal framework. Other relevant matters like caretaker governments, Electoral Roll, delimitation, electoral dispute resolution, election security and electoral offences are also discussed in the guide while the participation of women, minorities and persons with disabilities was given special attention. The guide has a dedicated section to cover media-related aspects of elections like coverage of elections. It extends tips for media reporting whereas it also points out potential Issues for consideration of Journalists while covering the General Elections 2018. The launch event will be followed by provincial launch events with the aim to promote awareness and receive stakeholders feedback to improve the overall election process.
DERA GHAZI KHAN: There are three weeks left to the general elections scheduled to be held on July 25, but, unlike other departments, no major transfer/posting could be made in the Border Military Police (BMP) administration, a local police force for de-excluded area commonly known as tribal area, to ensure transparency in the election.
Many politically-tainted Jamadar (circle officers) are still posted on key posts in the constituency of their family members or relatives and, the public fears, the influential officers will definitely attempt to manipulate the election results. Local civil society members and social activists, even political leaders have expressed their apprehensions that without reshuffling of the "blue-eyed officers" transparency could not be expected in election, arguing that these circle officers can easily play vital role in pre-poll rigging for power politics in tribal area.
According local political leaders who requested anonymity, Jamadar Azmat Sher Qaisrani is posted as Circle Officer Satta, in the constituency of PP-285, where his cousin namely Sardar Confucius Imam Qaisraniis is contesting election as independent candidate with the symbol of Pitcher. Similarly, Jamadar Rizam Khan Khosa is posted as Circle Officer Toman Khosa, in the constituency of PP-287, where his uncle namely Sardar Mohsin Atta Khan Khosa is contesting election as independent candidate with the symbol of Bucket.
Jamadar Azhar Hassan Tipu Qaisrani is posted as circle officer Likhani, in the areas of PP-285 and NA-189, where his cousin Mrs Shamoona Abreen is contesting election on the PML-N ticket. Similarly Jamadar Muhammad Umer Khan Buzdar is posted as circle officer Barthi, in constituency of PP-286, where his real brother Sardar Usman Khan Buzdar is candidate of Pakistan Tehreek-eInsaf.
Jamadar Ejaz Ahmad Khan Leghari is posted as circle officer Sakhi Sarwar in NA-191, where his cousin Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari is a PML-N candidate. Moreover, Jamadar Abdullah Khan Leghari posted as circle officer Rakhi Gauj, Dafadar Kareem Nawaz Khan posted as circle


NAB opts not to arrest any contestant before July 25 The Nation, $4^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

NA-55 to witness PTI-PMLN tough contest
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officer Bawata and Dafadar Saeed Ahmad Khan posted as circle officer Khar are presently serving in the constituency of Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari who is also Sardar of Leghari tribe. In fact, the BMP administration never has reshuffled officers on permanent basis for general election in the past like the Punjab Police department transfer / posting policy. Only election duty was assigned to BMP personnel in last 2013 election.
Talking to The Nation, Deputy Commissioner / Senior Commandant BMP Akbar Ali Bhatti said that on June 27, 2018, the DG Khan DC Office had sought recommendations from the Political Assistant / Commandant BMP on transfers and postings. "Now Lists of BMP personnel, keeping in view the political connections, have been prepared and action would be taken as per BMP rules," he claimed.
He assured that the district administration will ensure fair, free and transparent election across the district, particularly in the de-excluded area (tribal areas) where tribal elders are contesting election. "Insha Allah every voter will cost his/ her vote freely without fear or favour" he asserted.
ISLAMABAD: As many as 60 European Union election observers are being trained, who will eventually be sent to different areas of Pakistan to monitor the general election 2018. This was informed by a two-member EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM)-Pakistan 2018 comprising Media Analyst Inta Lase and Legal Analyst Colm Fahy, during a meeting with Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Managing Director Masood Ahmed Malik here Wednesday.
The delegation explained that the mandate of the EU EOM was to observe all aspects of the electoral process and assess as to what extent the laws of Pakistan, as well as its regional and international commitments, were compiled.
They said the observers would meet election officials, candidates and representatives of civil society and submit the reports based on their observation, to the core team in Islamabad. The exercise would help draw an independent and impartial conclusion about the election, they added. The EU EOM members described it as a great opportunity to observe and analyze elections in Pakistan as part of EU Election Observation Mission (EOM). The mission currently comprised a core team of 10 election analysts based in Islamabad, besides 60 long-term observers, for deployment across the country in early July.
Inta Lase underlined the importance of social media in the present election, saying the mission would be observing the election campaign, electoral process as well as the role of media in news dissemination and coverage of elections. Earlier, APP Managing Director informed the delegation that conduct of free, fair and peaceful elections was the prime responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan. The caretaker federal and provincial governments were making all necessary arrangements and providing support to the ECP in the discharge of its constitutional duties, he added.
He also mentioned to the Code of Conduct prepared by the ECP for contesting candidates, presiding officers, polling staff and media. The law enforcement agencies deployed across the country for maintaining peace during the election process, he added. He informed the visiting delegation that the ECP had prepared a code of conduct for media in consultation with the representatives of media organizations to ensure objective coverage of the election.
He briefed the delegation about the APP's organizational structure and functioning of its various services, including English, Urdu, Arabic, Siraiki, Pashto, Sindhi and Balochi. He said APP was covering political activities of all political parties indiscriminately and ensuring that unbiased and authentic reports were disseminated to subscribers and the general public. Masood Malik said,"The organization arranges workshops for its correspondents before every election for extensive coverage of general polls and takes full responsibility of its contents as it only releases error-free and credible news."
He said APP upheld excellent journalistic traditions by objective and accurate reporting while observing the code of ethics with regard to responsible journalism. "We enjoy a leading role by supplying authentic and credible news to the print and electronic media round-the-clock. Around 900 news containing important events and developments are put on wire daily for onward consumption by its subscribers," he added.
Masood Malik said with the strong editorial network at the headquarters, bureaus, stations as well as deployment of correspondents at the district level, the news agency was rendering important professional contribution to cater to the requirements of print, electronic and pictorial media in various fields.

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has taken the decision on Wednesday not to arrest any contestant before the general elections-2018. According to the sources in the light of this ruling the ongoing graft proceedings against former Khawaja Asif, Rana Afzal and Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan have been suspended till General Elections 2018. NAB Chairman Justice Javed Iqbal (retd) clarified in a statement that NAB does not believe in revenge against anyone and we are doing our level best for a corruption-free Pakistan. He also made it clear that this judgement has nothing to do with politics or elections.
ATTOCK: The 2018 general elections will witness a tough contest between PTl's Maj Tahir Sadiq and PML-N candidate Sheikh Aftab Ahmed in NA-55, Attock. As many as eight candidates are in the race for NA-55 of Attock. Prominent among them are former district Nazim Major Tahir Sadiq and former federal minister for parliamentary affairs Sheikh Aftab Ahmad. The NA-55 constituency consists of tehsil Attock, Hazro and Hassanabdal where there are 571,804 registered voters.
The other six candidates are Zulfiqar Hayat Khan of PPP, Asif Iqbal of Allah-o-Akbar Tehreek, Taimoor Aslam of PTI-Nazriati, Hafiz Saeed Ahmad of MMA, Muhammad Hafeez Ullah Jan of Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan and Malik Mir Afzal of Pakistan Human Rights Party.


Rana Sana among others issued warning
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Maj (r) Tahir Sadiq, who joined PTI last year was previously associated with PM-Q and remained Attock district nazim twice during Pervez Musharaf's regime, seems to be a strong candidate from the constituency. He is considered to have contacts at the grassroots level, having strong teams at union council level. He also claims to have carried out a lot of development work and provided jobs to the youth in education, police and other departments. He is also accessible to everyone anytime. Maj ( $r$ ) Tahir Sadiq told this scribe that he travelled hundreds of miles daily to have close contacts with his people. Apparently, his position seems to be strong in this constituency.
On the other hand, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad who is in good books of Sharif brothers also did a lot of development work in this locality. He claims that he provided gas facility to all the villages of tehsils Attock and Hazro, established an agriculture university in the district, started master-level classes in Government Boys College, Attock, and recruited thousands of teachers purely on merit, which was a record. Although both the leaders have contributed to the constituency's development, they will have to work hard to garner the support of the voters to clinch the seat.
Malik Amin Aslam, a local PTI leader, withdrew his nomination papers in favour of Maj Tahir Sadiq. He was so close to Imran Khan that he tasked him to look after one billion-tree project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Khan acknowledged his services at every forum, but did not give him ticket for NA55. Since the PTI chief considered Major Tahir Sadiq a strong candidate and electable, he pacified Aslam by saying that he would be elevated to the ministry of environment after coming to power.
Malik Aslam had filed his nomination papers for NA-55, so his supporters forced him to contest as an independent candidate after PTI denied him ticket despite his 10 years of association with the party. But Aslam withdrew his nomination papers and told his supporters that he could not betray his party leadership. He, however, told journalists that he would not take part in the election campaign of Major Tahir Sadiq. After the withdrawal of papers by Aslam, the position of Major Tahir has become stronger.
Sheikh Aftab, who has been in power for the last 10 years, has thousands of supporters and is running his election campaign with high hopes. However, some of his party office-bearers at the tehsil level have joined other parties or are supporting other candidates. This factor has certainly created problems for the former federal minister. Talking to The Nation, Sheikh Aftab said he believes in the performance that will help him win the polls.
ISLAMABAD: Like some other constituencies in the country, the NA-158 of Punjab is set to witness neck-and-neck contest as former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gilani after his eligibility to contest the July's polls will challenge PML-N's Javed Ali Shah and PTI's Muhammad Ibrahim Khan. Both the rival candidates of the area. Former minister Javed Ali Shah and Muhammad Ibrahim Khan - are being considered strong candidates to give tough time to PPP stalwart in this constituency (MultanV). The NA-158 seat in the 2013 general elections was grabbed by Syed Javed Ali Shah of PML-N with a big margin and PTI candidate Muhammad Ibrahim Khan and PPP's Asad Murtaza Gilani were runner up respectively.
The major chunk of votes in the Shujabaad Tehsil (NA-158) is distributed in different areas of this constituency, including 'Matotli', 'Raja Ram', 'Hamid Pur', 'Makhdoom Pur' and in 'Shujabad city', wherein the political campaign is fast getting momentum. Gilani, the former prime minister of Pakistan, in his campaign with other convincing tools is also mentioning the road project 'Shujabad express way' executed by him during his rule. While Javed Ali Shah, having an edge of his native town (Shujabaad), is running his political campaign mostly on 'Motorway road project'. Ibrahim Khan from PTI is said to be focusing on his social work for this constituency to secure maximum votes. Interestingly, PPP's Yousaf Raza Gilani and PML-N's Javed Ali from PML-N had been in the same panel to contest in general elections in 90 s. Political observers believed that the delimitation of the constituency could prove fruitful for former prime minister Gilani as many people of the area in new the distribution are supporting him. The wings (provincial candidates from PPP) of the PPP's candidate are still not being considered as much effective. Gilani had also won election from this area against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in 1988. Sharif had contested from four seats and lost two seats including this constituency.
Whereas Ibrahim Khan from PTI is believed to be having strong wings in the shape of strong provincial candidates of his party and this can ensure his win in the election. They said that the delimitation of constituency might not prove favourable for PML-N's Javed Ali Shah but his political campaign is gaining momentum.
In this battle, they believed, the actual match could be between PTI's candidate and PPP's candidate. On the provincial seats of the area (PP-203, PP-204), the major parties have almost confirmed their candidates. The provincial assembly seats in this area will also witness close contests, as from PTI Mian Tariq Abdullah and Rana Sohail Noon, PML-N's Aijaz Noon and Rana Tahir Shabir (still ticket unconfirmed) and PPP's Mian Kamran Mural and khurram Fareed Khakwani are the main contestants.
FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner [DC]/District Monitoring Officer for General Election 2018 Syed Ahmed Fawad has issued warning to the candidates of NA-106 including former provincial law minister Rana Sanaullah Khan and Dr Nisar Ahmed Jatt for violation of code of conduct issued by Election Commission of Pakistan [ECP]. The DC summoned electoral candidates Rana Sanaullah Khan and Dr Nisar Ahmed Jatt in his office and informed them about the reports against them regarding violations of the ECP code of conduct. He issued warning to the defaulter candidates on assurance from them to follow the code of conduct in letter and spirit.
The DC reiterated that the electoral candidates were bound to comply with the code of conduct of Election Commission of Pakistan as they had signed on nomination papers. He informed that the candidates could only display the banners/postures of the size specified by the Election Commission of Pakistan. He explained that the carrying and displaying of arms of all kinds were prohibited and


## Disgruntled PMLN Sialkot

head backs PTI candidates The Nation, $4^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

11,855 in the run for 849 NA, PA seats
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candidates and their supporters should refrain to break the law. The DC informed that Punjab Home Department had also imposed section 144 Crpc for binding the code of conduct.
While issuing warning, the DC/DMO stressed upon the candidates for extending cooperation for holding peaceful, free, fair and transparent election, otherwise, legal action would be taken against the violators of the law without any discrimination. He also explained that the violators of code of conduct could be disqualified and fined up to Rs50,000.
Meanwhile, the DC called on the meeting of newly posted ADCs and ACs. He directed them for providing all out administrative support for holding of general election in pleasant and conducive environment. He asked the ACs to get the code of conduct in election campaign implemented in their respective areas, adding that immediate reports should be submitted to him in case of any violation. He directed them to visit polling stations and their respective areas for the provision of missing facilities. He said that proper and comprehensive transport plan should be devised for the transportation of polling material and staff. The DC directed for taking comprehensive measures for the relief of the public during and after heavy rains in monsoon season. He said that the cleanliness system should also be kept active for ensuring neat and clean environment at town and tehsil level. The meeting was attended by ADCR Mehboob Ahmed, ADCG Malik Mushtaq Hussain Naich, ADC Finance Asima Ejaz, ACs Muhammad Tahir, Adnan Shehzad Khan, Syed Khalid Mehmood Gilani, Muhammad Aurangzeb and others.
SIALKOT: Disgruntled PML-N Sialkot District president Idrees Ahmed Bajwa has announced support for PTI's candidate Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan in NA-72 (Sialkot-I) against PML-N candidate Ch Armughan Subhani. He also announced political support for PTI's candidate Saeed Ahmed Bhalli in PP-38. Talking to the media the disgruntled PML-N district head said that he has taken the decision in protest against the monopolistic-politics of the Variyo Family. Mr Bajwa said that he had been a staunch worker of the PML-N, claiming he was more eligible for the party ticket than the Variyo Family's scions - Ch Armughan Subhani, Ch Khush Akhtar Subhani and Ch Tariq Akhtar Subhani. "I was deserved for PML-N ticket than "the Variyos", but the party leadership totally ignored my life-long political services and sacrifices and awarded tickets to Ch Armughan Subhani in NA72, (Sialkot-II) and Ch Khush Akhtar Subhani in PP-38 (Sialkot-IV).
Idrees Bajwa recalled that Ch Khush Akhtar Subhani had contested the 2015 Local Bodies elections as an independent candidate against the local PML-N candidate in Union Council Bhaagowal, violating the party discipline in this regard. He said that it is great pity and injustice on the part of the PML-N leadership that it has awarded party ticket to a person who worked against the party in 2015 LB polls. He alleged that the Variyos are promoting monopolistic-politics in the region. Mr Bajwa expressed his disagreement and disappointment with the PML-N leadership's decision to award party tickets to the Variyos and announced complete support for PTI candidate Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan and Saeed Ahmed Bhalli. To a question, disgruntled Bajwa said he is and will remain a PMLN worker. According to the local independent political observers, this could be a big setback for the PML-N candidate in NA-72. Meanwhile, Firdous Ashiq Awan welcomed Idrees Bajwa's decision and invited him to join PTI as well.

ISLAMABAD: With the election fever yet to pick up in most parts of the country, 11,855 candidates have been left in the run for 849 general seats of national and provincial assemblies after withdrawal of nominations and scrutiny by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).
According to the data released by the ECP, 3,459 candidates will contest 272 general seats of the national assembly, while 8,396 candidates will fight for 577 general seats of the four provincial assemblies.
The figures show a significant decrease in the number of contestants as compared to the 2013 general polls when 15,629 candidates - 4,671 for national assembly and 10,958 for provincial assemblies - were in the field after the completion of scrutiny process.
This time, a total of 3,459 candidates - 1,623 from Punjab, 824 from Sindh, 725 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 287 from Balochistan - are in the run for the 272 general seats of the national assembly.
The ECP data of election for general seats of provincial assemblies shows that a total of 4,036 candidates will fight for 297 general seats of the Punjab Assembly; 2,252 candidates will contest 130 general seats of the Sindh Assembly; 1,165 will compete for 99 KP Assembly seats and 943 will vie for 51 general seats of the Balochistan Assembly.
Interestingly, the leadership of major political parties and other political heavyweights will contest the upcoming elections from more than one constituency.
PML-N president Shahbaz Sharif will contest from four constituencies of three provinces including NA-132 (Lahore), NA-192 (Dera Ghazi Khan), NA-249 (Karachi) and NA-3 (Swat).
In Swat, Mr Sharif will face PTI's Saleem Rehman, PPP's Shehryar Amin Zeb, MMA's Maulana Hujjat Ullah and ANP's Abdul Karim Khan. For NA-132 (Lahore) seat, other contestants against the PML-N chief are PTI's Mansha Sindhu and PPP's Samina Khalid Ghurki. In D.G. Khan, PTI's Sardar Mohammad Khan Leghari will contest NA-192 against the PML-N chief. In Karachi, Mr Sharif will fight his electoral battle in NA-249 against PTI's Faisal Vawda and PPP's Qadir Khan Mandokhel.
PTI Chairman Imran Khan has submitted his nomination from five constituencies - NA-35 (Bannu), NA-53 (Islamabad), NA-95 (Mianwali), NA-131 (Lahore) and NA-243 (Karachi).
In Bannu, Mr Khan will face former chief minister Mohammad Akram Khan Durrani of the MMA and PPP's Syeda Yasmeen Safdar. In Mianwali, those in the electoral race with the PTI chief include PML-N's Obaidullah Shadi Khel and PPP's Mohammad Khalid Khan.


In Islamabad, other contestants include former premier and PML-N candidate Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, PPP's Syed Sibghatullah Bokhari and Mian Mohammad Aslam of the MMA.
In Lahore, an interesting contest is expected between the PTI chief and PML-N's Khawaja Saad Rafiq. Asim Mehmood of the PPP will also contest from the same constituency.
In Karachi, Mr Khan will face former deputy speaker of the Sindh Assembly Syeda Shehla Raza, MQM's Ali Raza Abidi, MMA's Osama Razi, PSP's Muzammil Qureshi and PML-N's Sheikh Mohammad Shah.
PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari will contest three NA seats including one from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
In NA-6 (Malakand) constituency, Bilawal will face ANP's Zahid Khan, PTI's Mehboob Shah, MMA's Maulana Asadullah and PML-N's Javed Akhtar Tajik.
In Larkana (NA-200), Bilawal will face PTI's Haleema Bhutto, while in NA-246 (Karachi) the PPP chairman will face MQM's Mehfooz Yar Khan, PML-N's Saleem Zia and PTI's Abdul Shakoor Shah.
His father Asif Ali Zardari will contest election from NA-213 (Shaheed Benazirabad) against PTI's Farooq Chandio and PML-N's Ghulam Mohiyyuddin Shah.
Chief of his own faction of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Maulana Fazlur Rahman will contest NA-38 and NA-39 seats from Dera Ismail Khan. He will face PPP's Faisal Karim Kundi, former deputy speaker national assembly, and PTI's Ali Amin Gandapur in NA-38. In the other constituency, too, the JUI-F chief will face PPP's Faisal Karim Kundi, while other contestants for NA-39 seat include PTI's Mohammad Yaqoob Shaikh and PML-N's Akbar Khan.
Former interior minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan will contest NA-59 and NA-63 seats from Rawalpindi, where the PML-N has fielded Raja Qamar Zaman and Mumtaz Khan against him in the respective constituencies. His traditional electoral rival, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, will compete on both seats on a PTI ticket.
In the two other national assembly constituencies of Rawalpindi, Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad will contest NA-60 and NA-62.
Jamaat-i-Islami chief Sirajul Haq, who is a sitting senator, will contest NA-7 seat (Lower Dir) and NA-23 (Charsadda) on MMA ticket. He will face PML-N's Sobia Khalid, PTI's Basheer Khan and PPP's Advocate Shahid Jan in Lower Dir and Qaumi Watan Party chief Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao in Charsadda.
Awami National Party chief Asfandyar Wali Khan is in the run for NA-24 (Charsadda) against Pir Syed Gohar Shah of MMA, Pir Aftab of PPP and Mian Alamgir Shah of PML-N.
Ayesha Gulalai who formed her own faction of PTI will contest NA-25 (Nowshera) seat against former KP chief minister Pervez Khattak. She also submitted her nomination papers from other national assembly constituencies.
Former NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq (PML-N) will be in the run for NA-129 (Lahore) seat against PTI's Aleem Khan and PPP's Iftikhar Shahid.
Former premier Yusuf Raza Gilani will contest NA-158 (Multan) seat, while his sons Ali Moosa Gilani and Ali Qadir Gilani are in the run for NA-157 and NA-154 seats.
Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chief Mehmood Khan Achakzai will contest NA-263 seat.
HUJRA SHAH MUQEEM: Electoral alliance between Jugnu Mohsin, independent candidate from PP-184, and PML-N ticket-holder Rao Ajmal Khan was termed a natural process as per needs of the area. "Not only will it maintain balance between local candidates but it will also fulfil expectations of the public from election."
These views were expressed by City Councillor and renowned social personality Ch Nayab Kashif during an address to a press conference at Hujra Press Club here the other day. He said that politics of Okara district revolved around two important seats of Depalpur tehsil including PP-184, adding "Local political personalities in the past, who reached Parliament and conferred ministries and other important positions, had contested election from this area." He criticised the former lawmakers for doing nothing good for people of their area despite remaining in power for 33 years. "They have built their palaces and bungalows with the public money they had looted from national treasure," he flayed, adding that their indifference to public woes had turned streets and localities of the area into ponds of dirty water. "During their 33-year long rule, locals remained victim of their negligence and oppression. They were forced to take out funeral processions of their beloved through accumulated dirty water," he lamented. He lauded Jugnu Mohsin and Rao Ajmal Khan for demolishing designs of local political dynasties to maintain their hegemony in the area. "Fearing defeat in election, they are now passing sleepless nights," he claimed, adding that they were destined to suffer ignominious defeat in July 25 polls. He said that Rao Ajmal Khan had completed numerous projects of public welfare in Hujra Shah Muqeem despite severe opposition from political rivals. "He introduced Sui gas, electricity, and development projects in remote villages in the suburbs of Hujra Shah Muqeem," he stated. "The day is not far when our area will be brightened with the light of progress and political oppression will find no refuge," he pointed out.
SAMBRIAL: Amidst differences among the party leaders, PTI claimed an important wicket of PMLN as its Sialkot district vice president quit the party here. PML-N District Vice President Asif Javed Ghumman left his party and joined PTI at a ceremony held here in a local hotel.
On the occasion, PTI senior leader and candidate for NA-76 Aslam Ghumman welcomed Asif Ghumman in the party, saying that the latter is greatly impressed by PTI's manifesto and mission. He said that Imran Khan is struggling to transform the country into Quaid-e-Azam's vision since 1996. The PTI candidate claimed that he and his brother got party tickets purely on merit. Candidate

for PP-44 Azeem Ghumman, candidate for PP-45 Barrister Jamshed Ghias Malik, Amin Qaiser, Malik Munir, Rana Gull Nawaz, Asad Ullah Randhawa, other PTI leaders and workers were also present on the occasion.

SIALKOT: The real threat to the PML-N and PTI candidates in NA-74, Sialkot-III are the disgruntled leaders as they are contesting the general elections as independent candidates after being denied the party tickets. They have formed their own political panels and are giving tough time to their respective party candidates. PML-N's bigwig Zahid Hamid, former federal law minister, fielded his son Ali Zahid as PML-N candidate in the constituency against PTI's Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas, the former provincial general secretary of PPP Punjab, who recently joined PTI. Nargis Faiz Malik is also in the election race as PPP candidate.
After his resignation as federal law minister followed by nationwide strong protest against the alleged attempt to amend the Khatam-e-Nubuwwat Act by the PML-N government, Zahid Hamid brought his son Ali Zahid in local politics. Zahid Hamid also played a leading role in the dropping of former MPAs Ch Munawar Ali Gill and Rana Liaqat Ali as the PML-N leadership not awarded party tickets to them. Now they are contesting polls against PML-N candidate in NA-74 and in PP 39, Sialkot-V and in PP-40, Sialkot-VI as independent candidates.
The PTI also took a major U-turn and it changed its candidates in both the constituencies. It withdrew its party ticket from Barrister Mansur Sarwar Khan and awarded it to PPP's dissident Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas in NA-74. In PP-39, it took back its ticket from Dr Tanveerul Islam, the PPP's dissident and former provincial minister, and awarded it to Saif Mansur Khan, the son of PTI's disgruntled leader Barrister Mansur Sarwar Khan. Former hockey player Muhammad Asif Bajwa, who also remained unable to get PTI ticket, is contesting the polls as an independent candidate against PTI's candidate Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas in Pasrur city's constituency.
However, a neck-and-neck contest is expected between PML-N's candidate Ali Zahid and PTI candidate Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas though they are facing strong challenges and tough time by the local disgruntled leaders. Constituency NA-74 is now consisting of Pasrur tehsil and several other rural areas of Narowal tehsil. The number of total registered voters is 475868 in the constituency including 262838 male voters and 207328 female voters. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has established as many as 383 polling stations for holding polling for July 25, 2018 general elections.
Zahid Hamid is three times winner from this constituency in 2013 and 2008 general elections as PML-N candidate. He won 2002 general elections during Gen Musharraf Regime as PML-Q candidate. Zahid Hamid got 73529 votes as PML-Q candidate in this constituency in 2002 general elections. He also got 62362 votes as PML-N candidate and won the 2008 general elections besides winning the 2013 general elections by getting 131468 votes as PML-N candidate.
PML-N and PTI have brought new faces against each other in this constituency. They are facing very strong criticism and tough time by their local disgruntled leaders, who remained unable to get the party tickets. The annoyed leaders were much annoyed with the top leadership. The unhappy leaders from both the sides are giving tough time to both the PML-N and PTI besides harming their vote banks as well.
The political differences between Ali Zahid and Ch Munawar Ali Gill cropped up when they refused to contest the polls under Ali Zahid. They said that Ali Zahid was much junior to them in politics. Former MPA Ch Munawar Ali Gill refused to contest under Ali Zahid, saying he was very junior to him in politics. Ali Zahid also opposed Ch Munawar Ali Gill's name while award of the party tickets. However, Zahid Hamid remains successful in getting out Ch Munawar Ali Gill from PML-N candidates. Ch. Munawar submitted his nomination papers against PML-N candidate in the constituency. PML-N's former MPA Rana Liaqat Ali is also contesting polls against PML-N's candidate as an independent candidate. Rana Liaqat Ali submitted his nomination papers after being rejected by PML-N top leadership.
Pakistan urged to protect press freedom ahead of elections
Al Jazeera News, $3^{\text {rd }}$ July, 2018
There are growing concerns over media censorship and violence against journalists in Pakistan as the country prepares to hold general elections later this month. The Committee to Protect Journalists, a US-based advocacy group, urged Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Nasir-ul-Mulk to take swift measures to ensure press freedom and an open media environment in the lead up to the July 25 polls. "We are concerned that recent events in Pakistan signal that the media is not free to report and we urge your government to take necessary measures to guarantee journalists' ability to work without fear of intimidation or reprisal," Joel Simon, CPJ's executive director, said in a letter addressed to Mulk on Monday.
CPJ said it has documented a series of "worrisome occurrences" in recent months, some of which have "prevented the free distribution of news or that appear to be aimed at intimidating journalists into silence". Pakistan ranks 139 out of 180 countries on Reporters Without Borders' (RSF) World Press Freedom Index, and attacks against journalists and other media professionals - particularly those deemed critical of the state - are common. CPJ's letter comes after similar concerns were raised last month by media watchdog RSF and its local partner in Pakistan, Freedom Network (FN).
A joint letter they addressed to the caretaker prime minister said: "What with threats, abductions, beatings, illegal suspensions and disrupted distribution, media and journalists are being harassed by the military and intelligence services, as well by political actors, in a clear attempt to intimidate them and prevent independent reporting ahead of the elections."
'Fostering fear'Last month, prominent Pakistani social activist and newspaper columnist Gul Bukhari Bukhari, 52, who is known for her strident criticism of the country's powerful military, was briefly abducted by several unidentified men while on her way to a television news studio in the eastern city of Lahore. In a separate incident on the same day, investigative journalist and news anchor Asad Kharal was also assaulted in Lahore by "some persons wearing masks," he said. During a


Bilawal 'didn't choose this life' but campaigns to be Pakistan prime minister Gulf News, $3^{\text {rd }}$ July, 2018

## Dynastic troika ruling NA-

 104 since 1970The Nation, $3^{\text {rd }}$ July, 2018

June press conference, Major General Asif Ghafoor, Pakistan military's spokesperson, accused a number of journalists of redistributing "anti-state and anti-military propaganda". In mid-May, the distribution of Dawn, Pakistan's oldest and most respected daily newspaper, was disrupted in several areas across the country, a source told AI Jazeera, allegedly over its publication of an interview with former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that implied military complicity in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

THATTA, Pakistan: His mother was assassinated on the campaign trail and his grandfather was executed by a military dictator, but that has not prevented Bilawal Bhutto Zardari from seeking the job they both held: prime minister of Pakistan. Oxford-educated and single, 29-year-old Bilawal is campaigning himself for the first time, traversing the sprawling plains of his native Sindh province to try to revive the fortunes of his struggling, left-of-centre Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) ahead of a July 25 general election. He was still in university when his mother, two-time prime minister Benazir Bhutto, was assassinated in 2007 as she campaigned to restore democracy after military rule. Her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, also a prime minister, was hanged after being deposed in a military coup."I didn't choose this life, I didn't actively go out and pursue it. My mother always used to say that she didn't choose this life, it chose her. In the same way I feel like it applies to me," Bilawal told Reuters, as he stood on the roof of his open-top, 20-foot-high bulletproof bus. Asked if he is ever afraid while campaigning, he answered briefly: "No". He then pivoted to discussing a "climate of fear" in the leadup to the elections that some activists blame on Pakistan's powerful military. In one of the first interviews since being named the PPP's prime ministerial candidate, he also criticised fellow Oxford graduate and opposition leader Imran Khan - a potential coalition partner. Flanked by supporters on either side of the single-lane highway, Bilawal was showered with rose petals as he waved to thousands of people who waited to catch a glimpse of the youngest of the political dynasty that many call the Pakistani equivalent of the Kennedys.
Despite the feel-good feeling in the crowds, election time is always tense in Pakistan, which has been ruled by the military for almost half of the 70 years since independence. The outgoing Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government has accused the military and courts of playing a role in the ouster of prime minister Nawaz Sharif last year and helping Imran Khan's PTI political party. Khan, a former cricket captain of Pakistan, denies the accusation and calls the PML-N a graft-ridden "mafia". And overshadowing all this is the fear that the election is being engineered by the "establishment", a euphemism for Pakistan's much feared military and intelligence top brass, along with some senior civil servants and judges.The military has repeatedly denied that it interferes in modern-day politics."I think that there is absolutely a history in Pakistan of an over-active role for our establishment and the Pakistan Peoples Party firmly believes that should not be the case," Bilawal said, when asked about the military's involvement in politics."There is absolutely a feeling that certain candidates are feeling pressurised, are feeling certain political parties are being supported in ways that they shouldn't be," he said. "I believe everyone should believe in the people of Pakistan, trust the people of Pakistan to make their own choices."
FAISALABAD:The candidates from Jutt, Rajpoot and Gujjar clans have been the election winners in Samundari areas of NA-104 Faisalabad-4 (old NA-79) since 1970.
However major clans of the constituency are Arian, Jutt, Gujjar, and Rajpoot while Christian community has a big religious centre Josh Pura located here. The constituency also has a notorious reputation regarding political rivalries and some murders in the past.
As per the statistics of the Election Commission of Pakistan, the number of voters in NA-104 is 273,686 men and 220,132 women. Election Commission has directed to set up 398 polling stations and 1063 polling booths for the upcoming general elections of 25 July in the constituency.
The PML-N has awarded its ticket to former MNA Ch Shahbaz Babar Gujjar for NA-104, former MNA Safdar Shakir for PP-104 and ex MPA Rao Kashif Raheem for PP-105. Some areas of PP102 and PP-101 also exist in NA-104.
The PTI in NA-104 has given its ticket to Sardar Dildar Cheema, former MNA, PP-104 ticket to Shahid Khalil Noor and PP-105 ticket to Hafiz Mumtaz Ahmad.
PPP candidate for NA-104 is former federal minister Rana Farooq Saeed, Pir Ghulam Rasool for PP-104 and again Rana Farooq Saeed for PP-105 as he is contesting elections in two constituencies.
During the elections of 2002, Safdar Shakir won NA-104 seat on the ticket of PML-Q. He bagged 61150 votes and defeated PPP candidate Rana Farooq Saeed who got 56773 votes. PML-N candidate Safdar Rehman, ex MNA, took 23448 votes in the elections. Safdar Rehman and Safdar Shakir both belong to Jutt clan. In 2008 general elections on February 18, Rana Farooq Saeed of PPP as an independent candidate after bagging 58563 won the election while defeating Safdar Shakir of PML-Q who secured 29267 votes. Safdar Rehman of PML-N took 27869 votes and was defeated. PPP candidate Hamad Khan in these elections of 2008 got 27079 votes.
Before the general elections of 2008 Benazir Bhutto didn't gave ticket to its continuous candidate Rana Farooq Saeed for NA-104 (old NA-79) and PP-105 old PP-59 but Rana Farooq Saeed on both the NA and PP seats won the elections as an independent candidate.
Later, he joined PPP and was made federal minister for textile industry by former PM Yousaf Raza Gillani cabinet. During 2013. PML-N candidate Shahbaz Babar Gujjar scored 116334 votes and defeated Khalid Abdullah Ghazi of PTI who took 22007 votes. Rana Farooq Saeed on PPP ticket got 21195 votes in these elections. As mentioned earlier, Jutt and Gujjar clan candidates are winning general elections in NA-104 since 1970.
Muhammad Khan Jutt won the elections in 1977, Ghulam Nabi Gujjar in 1985, Abdullah Ghazi in 1988 Abdul Saboor on PPP ticket, Abdullah Ghazi again in 1990, a Jutt clan, first time an Arian candidate, son of chairman of District Council, in 1993, Zahid Nazir who is now chairman district

council on PPP ticket won the elections. In 1997 a Jutt bradari candidate of PML-N won the elections. However for upcoming general elections political pundits say that PPP candidate Rana Farooq Saeed and PTI candidate Sardar Dildar Cheema are strong candidates but PML-N candidate Shahbaz Babar Gujjar former MNA of 2013 elections would make neck and neck competition.
Shahbaz Babar, father was a deputy director of an investigation agency. He had close relationship with leadership of some political parties. Nawaz Sharif before 2013 election had announced to award its party ticket to him but he was killed in a road accident on motorway. Therefore the ticket was awarded to his son Shahbaz Babar Gujjar.
PTI candidate Sardar Dildar Cheema is son of Jungle Singh, who migrated to Pakistan after partition. It's famous and commonly expressed that Jungle Singh accepted Islam for his huge property.
Dildar Cheema is famous for using millions of rupees in election campaign. In the past, when Dildar Cheema contested elections against late Ch Nazir their campaign news got space in the international media as both the candidates openly used millions of rupees for the purpose.
Dildar Cheema contested 1985-88-90-93-97, 2002 and 2008 elections. Except in 2002 elections, he won the elections.
Samundari was on a major trade route during the reign of Sher Shah Suri. The present site of Samundari city was founded in 1887 as Chak 533/GB. Later it was renamed as Seh Mundri because of three Hindu mandirs in the area. The word Seh means 'three' in Persian and a Mandir is Sanskrit word for a temple.
In 1887 there were three Hindu shrines in this area where the Government Primary School No 4 situates now. Migration between India and Pakistan was continuous before the independence. By the 1900s, Western Punjab supported the Muslim League and Pakistan Movement. After the independence in August 1947, the minority of Hindus and Sikhs migrated to India while the Muslim refugees from Eastern Punjab in India settled in the Western Punjab.
Hafiz Saeed runs son's
campaign in NA-91
The Nation, $3^{\text {rd }}$ July, 2018

PTI to take action against members violating discipline over tickets issue
Geo News, 3rd July, 2018

Is PPP 'condoning'
Wattoos' blatant
indiscipline?
The Nation, $3^{\text {rd }}$ July, 2018

SARGODHA: Jamaatud Dawa head Prof Hafiz Saeed has stressed a need for national solidarity and unity in the current situation to fight modern challenges. He said, "My priority is to protect Pakistan because its security is the guarantee of our survival so we should compete with all the hazards with unity. Elections 2018 are not ordinary elections." He was addressing a press conference in Sargodha Press Club on Monday during election campaign of his son Hafiz Talah Saeed in NA-91. Hafiz Saeed said that present atmosphere is demanding unity to thwart all the conspiracies and adverse designs of America and our chronic rival India. He said India is constructing dams by breaching the Indus Water Treaty. He added, "We have fielded our candidates for the National Assembly seats across the country to hoist flag against raising corruption and present political situation." He said that his purpose was to strengthen the country according to the ideology of Pakistan. At on occasion, Hafiz Talah Saeed was also there while independent candidates Dr Naveed Akhtar, Muhammad Ramzan Azad and PML-N office-bearers Dr Muhammad Imran, Abdul Rauf and others announced to support Hafiz Talah and joined Mili Muslim League.

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Spokesman Fawad Chaudhry said on Tuesday that the party will initiate action against members who violated discipline in relation to the issue of tickets ahead of General Election 2018. According to the party spokesman, the names of the members contesting as independent candidates will be sent to a committee. Fawad Chaudhry said that an oath was taken from the members to not contest the elections if they weren't awarded party tickets. "Contesting the elections as independent candidates is a violation of the affidavit and the Article 62 and 63 of the Constitution," said the party spokesman.
Last week, the PTI suffered a major setback in Layyah district of Punjab, where an influential group quit the party despite having been awarded tickets for the forthcoming General Election 2018. Sehar group was awarded one ticket for the National Assembly and three for provincial assembly seats by the PTI. The disgruntled PTI members protested outside Imran Khan's residence at Bani Gala over the issue of ticket distribution. Imran Khan had tried to console the dissatisfied members by saying that he will hold an inquiry into the matter. The PTI chief had also assured protesters that the tickets were distributed fairly and he will not be pressurised into taking a different decision.
LAHORE: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) seems to be reluctant to take disciplinary action against the Wattoos who have violated the party discipline by contesting against the party's candidates in various Okara constituencies. The PPP has acted against other leaders who are contesting as independents, particularly in the constituencies where the party's candidates are in the fray.
Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo is central senior vice-president of the party and is in the run as an independent candidate against PPP nominee Shehzad Naul in NA-144 (Okara-IV). Mr Wattoo's son Mr Khurram, PPP Sahiwal division president and daughter Rubina Shaheen Wattoo, the party's Punjab women wing chief, have obtained tickets of PTI for PP-185 and PP-186 (Punjab Assembly seats falling under NA-144). The PPP has fielded its nominee for PP-185 but could not find a suitable candidate for the PP-186 as the Wattoos changed their loyalties at the eleventh hour, leaving no time for the party to find alternatives.
Mr Wattoo says he had approached the leadership to seek the permission for contest as independents. PPP Punjab chapter acting secretary general Osman Malik says Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has declined Mr Wattoo's suggestion, making it clear that only those will be considered the party's candidates who are contesting on 'arrow' symbol and that the party will not leave the seats open for the "independents". The party has removed its south Punjab information secretary ex-MPA Shaukat Basra from his office for contesting as an independent. A similar action has been initiated against Nasira Mayo, who is campaigning in a Kasur constituency against party leader Chaudhry Manzoor Ahmed. But, no action has so far been visible against the Wattoos. When

stations are 'sensitive': ECP
The Nation, $3^{\text {rd }}$ July, 2018

ECP raps PTI Man for using COAS, CJP pics in posters
The Nation, $3^{\text {rd }}$ July, 2018

Parties promising moon amidst unending woes The Nation, $3^{\text {rd }}$ July, 2018
asked, senior party leader and ex-Senator Farhatullah Babar said by ditching the party the Wattoos would themselves die politically so there was no need to initiate any disciplinary action against them. "When senior party office-bearers like Manzoor Wattoo Sahib act like this, they harm themselves more than undermining the party. It is then immaterial whether customary disciplinary action is taken or not. Laws of nature are stern, unforgiving and immutable. It is a self-inflicted disciplinary action. One can't say anything more and one doesn't have to."
ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday declared as many as 20,700 polling stationssensitive in its briefing to Caretaker Prime Minister Justice (retd) Nasirul Mulk. The institution also briefed the premier over possible nefarious plans to sabotage the election process. It recommended the caretaker government to set up monitoring centres in all four provinces with the assistance of security agencies.
The ECP demanded the caretaker government to install CCTV cameras on sensitive polling stations, and to provide air support during the transportation of ballot papers to the polling stations . Earlier, ECP in its statement announced to extend the time for polling in the July 25 general election by an hour in order to ensure the maximum participation of voters.
As per the revised timings, polling will now be held from 8 am to 6 pm, for a total of 10 hours uninterrupted. Sources said this is the first time the polling duration has been extended across the board in the country's electoral history.

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan Monday grilled Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf candidate Nasir Cheema from Gujranwala's constituency PP-62 for using pictures of the army chief and the chief justice in his election campaign advertisements and posters.
"Are they related to you? What is the army chief and CJP's link to the elections? On what basis did you put up their pictures?" asked Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice (retd) Sardar Muhammad Raza during the hearing of an appeal against the PTI candidate.
According to Cheema, who won Gujranwala's constituency PP-97 in the 2015 by-poll, claimed that the advertisements and posters were put up prior to the election schedule was announced. The chief election commissioner, however, was not impressed by the reply and said: "regardless of when they were put up, you explain why their images were put up?"
The CEC asked Cheema to submit a written reply giving reasons as to why he should not be stopped from contesting the elections. The hearing was adjourned till Monday next.
Meanwhile, the ECP has issued the final list of candidates contesting the July 25 general election. According to the figure, 3,675 candidates were contesting for National Assembly seats and 8,895 candidates for four provincial assemblies.
The candidates for National Assembly seats included 760 from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, 1,696 from Punjab, 303 from Balochistan and 872 from Sindh. Similarly, 44 candidates were taking part on minority seats for the National Assembly.
In another related development, the ECP has fixed Thursday as the last day for receiving applications regarding postal ballots for the general election. The out-stationed voters, who cannot reach the polling station in person, can cast their votes for the national and provincial assemblies through postal ballots.
According to the ECP, applications for postal ballots must be given on the prescribed form available on the ECP's website www.ecp.gov.pk or might be obtained from returning officers concerned. The voters to whom postal ballots will be issued would not be entitled to vote in person at polling stations. The applications would be forwarded or endorsed by the office or department of the voter concerned to guard against unauthorized person applying for postal ballots.
Meanwhile, the ECP has also asked persons with disabilities to avail the postal ballot paper facility to exercise their right of vote in the general election. According to an ECP statement, persons with disabilities could file their applications in this regard till Thursday. All the citizens, having computerized national identity cards mentioning the disabled person and issued by the NADRA could submit their applications to the returning officers concerned.
RAHIM YAR KHAN: Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have fielded their candidates in the six National Assembly constituencies here while the PML-N has not yet finalised its candidate in NA-175.
The PML-N has decided to support the independent candidate, former federal minister of religious affairs Hamid Saeed Kazmi. In NA-175, a very close contest is expected between PTI's Makhdoom Mubeen and PPP's Khawaja Qutab fareed Koreja. Mubeen was elected last year as vice chairman of District Council RYK from tehsil Liaqatpur on the PML-N. But last month, he joined the PTI with his father veteran politician Makhdoom Ahmed Alam Anwar. In NA-176, PML-N has issued its ticket to former MNA Shiekh Fayyazud Din who was annoyed with the candidates of his wings ljaz Shafi from PP-257 and Mian Islam Aslam from PP-260. Initially, Makhdoom Khusroo Bakhtiar of PTI submitted his nomination papers from the constituency but later he withdrew and gave the PTI ticket of his quota to Mian Ghous. However, PPP issued its ticket to Major (r) Tanveer Hussain Syed.
A tough contest is expected between PML-N and PTI but ljaz Shafi from PP-260 and his cousin Chaudhry Azhar from NA-176 are contesting as independent candidates which will make difficulties to PML-N candidate Fayyazud Din.
In NA-177, the PPP has issued its ticket to former federal finance minister Makhdoom Shahabud Din while Makhdoom Khusroo Bakhtiar will be the candidate of PTI. The PML-N has issued its ticket to Makhdoom Ammadud Din. Meanwhile, Jamshaid Dasti is also candidate from NA-177. Many voters of the constituency are annoyed with Khusroo. PML-N vice chairman of District Council


Makhdoom Alambardar Hashmi joined Khusroo's group with other persons three days back and some eight PPP union council chairmen also announced their support to him.
Shahab and Khusroo are main candidates in the contest. NA-178 is the native constituency of former Governor and PPP Southern Punjab president Makhdoom Ahmed where his son Makhdoom Mustafa is contesting on PPP ticket. The PTI has issued its ticket to Raees Mehboob and PML-N issued its ticket to Muhammad Tariq in the constituency.
Mustafa Mehmood is being considered as a strong candidate in the constituency because of his personal influence in the area. The important constituency of the district is NA-179 of RYK city and Southern rural areas. In the constituency, three main political parties have launched their strong candidates. PML-N issued its ticket to Mian Imtiaz Ahmed, PTI to former PPP MNA Javed Iqbal Warriach who joined PTI a few weeks back and PPP issued its ticket PML-N city president Mian Aamir Shahbaz who joined the PPP last month. A very tough and close contest is being expected in NA-179 where voters are divided. All the three candidates are claiming their success due to different reasons. PML-N claims that it gave many development projects in the city but the main project of central city, Abbasia flyover, is yet to be completed due to unavailability of funds.
Similarly, a mega sewerage project worth Rs4 billion is not completely beneficial for the people of the city for the last nine years. Moreover, there are many technical problems in the newly completed building of Sheikh Zayed Medical College.
PPP's candidate Mian Aamir Shahbaz alleges that every third person in this constituency has faced not only false FIRs from the PML-N candidate but also land grabbing was a common practice from the former legislator. PTI's Warriach, who is a strong candidate with his wings candidates of Asif Majeed from PP-262 and Ch Shafiq Chanab from PP-263, believes that he will eliminate the thana culture introduced by the influential politicians in the past. An independent candidate from NA-179 said that the 50 out of 65 PML-N councilors will influence the polling results in the city and demanded that local bodies institutions be suspended before elections.
In NA-180, the contest will be among Makhdoom Murtaza Mehmood of PPP, Sardar Rafiq Haider Leghari of PTI and Sardar Arshad Khan Leghari of PML-N. In this constituency, the votes of PML-N and PTI candidates will divide between two Legharis but a strong independent candidate Nadeem Abbas Cheema is also in the race who has political influence in the city and Southern villages of this tehsil Sadiqabad including some Raees dignitaries of Bhong Town.
PESHAWAR: Amid security threats that are affecting electioneering in North Waziristan, the imposition of section 144 has limited the campaigning of political players in the adjacent South Waziristan Agency. As per the details, the administration of South Waziristan had imposed section 144 in the first week of June following the clashes between Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) and pro-government militants. While under section 144, no one is allowed to hold public rallies and gatherings without the permission of authorities concerned, district magistrate, through a notification, has allowed limited political activities - permitting the contenders to address corner meetings.
Sources informed that the candidates of different parties were bound to seek permission to hold rallies and processions. "The candidates of different parties have opened election offices in both the tribal agencies. In rest of former tribal regions, the candidates are allowed to hold election rallies and gatherings, but officials from time to time are issuing threat alerts, that rather than stopping the political players, are causing fear and unrest among common people," they said.
Malik Ghulam Khan, candidate of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) from North Waziristan confirmed that his party's political activities were being limited owing to section 144. He, however, said that the situation was improving day by day now. PTM's Abdullah Nangyal, contesting from the frontier regions said, "There are no restrictions on rallies in the frontier regions but the situation is very critical for my fellows who are contesting from North and South Waziristan Agencies." Both candidates lamented that, with limited activities, it was hard for them as well as other candidates to convey their manifestos to the electorates. In this connection, they said the government needed to provide maximum opportunities to the candidates so that they run their campaigns without any fear or hurdles. It merits mention that two of PTM founding leaders, Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar, are contesting from South and North Waziristan Agencies. Ali Wazir, besides government restrictions, is also facing threats from former militants who are now a part of the government-patronised peace committees.
At least 10 people were injured in a blast at the election office of a Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) candidate in Razmak tehsil of North Waziristan tribal district on Tuesday $3^{\text {rd }}$ July, officials said. "A huge explosion happened when I was inaugurating my election office in Razmak city," Malik Aurangzeb Khan, PTI's candidate from NA-48 in the region bordering Afghanistan, told AFP. "At least 10 people were injured in the blast," he said, adding that he could not confirm the nature of the explosion.
A local administration official told AFP on condition of anonymity that an unidentified person threw a grenade at the gathering. A security source also confirmed the attack. Sources said panic ensued after the attack and the injured were crying for help. "Around 100 to 150 supporters of Malik Aurangzeb were present at the time [of the blast]," a local resident told DawnNewsTV. A large number of people suffered minor injuries in the grenade attack, while 10 people with major injuries were shifted to a nearby hospital, a source said. There was no immediate claim by any militant groups for the blast.
North Waziristan is one of Pakistan's seven tribal districts bordering Afghanistan, a region long rife with militancy. But the Pakistan Army has conducted a series of operations there in recent years and claims to have flushed the militants out, with the region set to be merged with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Bilawal faces the wrath of disgruntled voters in Lyari Gulf News, 2 $2^{\text {nd }}$ July, 2018

## ANALYSIS: The view from

 MakranDawn, 2nd July, 2018

Vexed with a lack of basic necessities, residents demand water, electricity and education Islamabad: Pakistan's young politician and chairman of oldest dynastic party Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, had to face the wrath of disgruntled voters when he visited Karachi's Lyari neighbourhood - a PPP bastion - during an election campaign. As the convoy of Bilawal passed on Sunday through Kalakot area of Lyari, dozens of angry residents - mostly youngsters - began pelting stones in protest and smashing the windows of several vehicles while chanting slogans of 'Go Bilawal go.' Several PPP workers and passers-by were injured as Bilawal's convoy was rerouted after the police intervened. Lyari is deemed a traditional stronghold of the PPP and its chairman Bilawal is contesting 2018 general elections from NA-246 constituency of the area. The resentment among Lyari residents is mainly due to deprived state of affairs in the area. The residents blame the PPP for failing to solve their issues, such as water and electricity crisis, scarce health, education and job opportunities. "Lyari is just a small sample of what can happen all over Pakistan. Women brought pots with them and demanded Bilawal for water in exchange for votes. Parliamentarians have been partying like there's no tomorrow. Finally, the people are rising for their rights, demanding water, electricity and education," remarked Sabena Siddiqi, an analyst. Many termed the unfortunate incident as an eye-opener for political parties to address the public grievances by providing clean water, food and basic necessities. A senior journalist Owais Tohid cautioned on social media: "It should be a wake-up call for PPP leadership that why Bilawal had to face protesters in Bhutto's traditional stronghold of Lyari rather than calling the protesters as a tool used by 'conspirators.'However, the PPP claimed that the incident was initiated by a handful of miscreants whereas thousand of party supporters greet their leader and showered him with rose petals as they chanted 'Wazir-e-Azam Bilawal' (Prime Minister Bilawal).Later, Bilawal said he will not be deterred by the violence. "Lyari is in my blood. I will go to every nook and corner of the country with my party manifesto. I will not be scared into submission by such forces," he vowed.
The protest against Pakistani politicians was not a one-off occurrence as the worsened water and electricity crisis over years and indifferent attitude of politicians has frustrated the public.Earlier, former Prime Minister and Pakistan Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi had to face the fury of voters in Kahuta who questioned about his five-year performance. Former federal minister Sikandar Bosan also faced similar situation in Multan when protesters demanded why he was seeking votes when he hadn't visited his home constituency in five years.Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan leader and veteran politician from Karachi Dr Farooq Sattar was blasted with complaints by resentful voters last week. "Go and ask God for forgiveness!" yelled a disheartened voter. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Karachi leader Khurrum Sher Zaman also encountered the anger of constituents during a visit to his constituency PS-110. "We did not vote [for you] to only remain confined to your home and assembly and travel in air-conditioned car," an angry voter shouted. Former Sindh chief minister Murad Ali Shah, PPP's Naveed Qamar and Jam Mehtab Hussain Dahar, PML-N's Rana Afzal Khan and Zahid Hamid, and PTI's Arif Alvi found themselves in a similar situation during election campaign. The disgruntled voters complained that the politicians completely overlooked the critical issues faced by the masses after winning last election and are only paying a visit now for the sake of votes.

MAKRAN: Makran division of Balochistan contains some key electoral races that will be watched closely, as they pit some of the province's political heavyweights against each other in the strategically important, yet underdeveloped region.
Along with the heated political battles expected on polling day, voter turnout will also be keenly followed as parts of Makran have been affected by the Baloch separatist insurgency, though violence is comparatively down compared to the situation in 2013.
While predictions and crystal-ball gazing can be tricky pursuits, background interviews with journalists and officials based in Makran give one the impression that in the three National Assembly constituencies that fall within the division, it will be a tough contest between the area's usual 'electables', particularly the candidates of the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) and the newly formed Balochistan Awami Party (BAP).
As per the new delimitations, Makran contains three NA seats: NA-270 (Panjgur-cum-Washuk-cumAwaran); NA-271 (Kech) and NA-272 (Lasbela-cum-Gwadar).
NA-270 covers three districts, Panjgur, Washuk and Awaran. In the 2013 polls, the seat was won by Jam Kamal Khan (now a leading BAP leader and the present Jam of Lasbela) as an independent candidate with over 56,000 votes. In the 2008 elections, Jam Kamal's late father Jam Yousuf took the seat with over 50,000 votes.
While NA-270 covers a huge area bordering Lasbela and Khuzdar in the east and Iran in the west, it is quite sparsely populated. As per the Election Commission of Pakistan's final electoral rolls, Awaran had 77,177 registered voters, Panjgur 101,256 and Washuk 53,156 . According to observers, BAP appears to have the best chance of getting their candidate elected from this constituency.
Coming to NA-271, it covers the district of Kech. In the 2013 polls, the seat was won by former federal minister retired Lt Gen Abdul Qadir Baloch on a PML-N ticket with just over 7,000 votes while in 2008 it was also the general who took the seat with over 22,000 votes. This time, with the security situation slightly better in the constituency, a lively competition can be expected. There are 222,631 registered voters in NA-271 as per the ECP's data. Observers say writer and former bureaucrat Jan Mohammad Dashti, contesting on a BNP-M ticket, appears to be the leading candidate, though he is likely to face tough competition from the BAP and BNP-Awami ticket-holders. But perhaps the most hotly contested seat in Makran will be NA-272. The constituency borders Sindh on its eastern flank, and Iran on its west. In 2013, the BNP-M's Sayed Essa Noori won the seat with nearly 16,000

votes while in the previous election Yaqoob Bizenjo of the BNP-A had been declared victorious with more than 61,000 votes.
According to the ECP's numbers, Lasbela has 236,538 registered voters while Gwadar has 120,341. Some of the biggest guns in Balochistan politics are in the run for this key seat, which contains Gwadar, billed as Pakistan's next boomtown and the key beneficiary of the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) bonanza. BNP-M chief Akhtar Mengal is in the run, as is BAP leader Jam Kamal and former speaker of the Balochistan Assembly Aslam Bhootani. There have been some testy exchanges between the candidates, particularly Akhtar Mengal and Jam Kamal on social media, and the race is expected to be tight. As a Gwadar-based analyst points out, Aslam Bhootani too cannot be counted out easily.
Considering the fact that the region was affected by separatist militancy for long, security of candidates and voters is a key question. But according to observers in the region, there should be a considerable difference between now and the 2013 polls as security has improved considerably. "The security issue exists but it is better than 2013; back then candidates could not carry out their campaigns. People were not willing to stand [in some areas]. In the current situation, issues exist in Turbat and Awaran. A few incidents have occurred" where candidates have been attacked, says the Gwadar-based analyst.
Asked how strong the sardari system was in Makran, he said it was not as effective as in some other parts of Balochistan. "The Sardari system does exist [in Makran]. However political parties are weak organisationally. Here [come election time] a lot depends on 'connections', who you know, and the biradari system".
A Quetta-based journalist agrees that the security situation has improved though the hot weather may influence voter turnout as it can get extremely hot in these parts of Balochistan in the summer when many families move to cooler climes.
An officer in Gwadar's local government department, speaking off the record, said this time around the BNP-M's chances look good, though the National Party (NP), which previously had its man Dr Abdul Malik Baloch - sit in Chief Minister House in Quetta during half of the previous set-up, may not do well.
"Mengal has made some good alliances in Makran. His party is strong and may replace NP. Dr Malik is not even contesting. Jan Mohammad Dashti is very strong candidate in NA-271. Also, we Baloch like to give new contenders a try if [the previous lawmakers] have failed to deliver," he observed.
On July 25, it will be much clearer whether the nationalist BNP-M succeeds in its attempt to capture Makran's electoral constituencies, or whether BAP, seen by some as 'inspired' by the establishment, grabs a slice of the pie. Whoever triumphs will have to address the burning issues of the area, particularly the water crisis in Gwadar. Whoever wins or loses, it is key for all political players to take part in the electoral process, for as candidate for NA-271 Jan Mohammad Dashti observed the decision by certain political forces to boycott the past several elections was "a big mistake", and that leaving the field open to "non-political elements" had allowed these forces to make it to the legislatures.
While the electoral process in Balochistan, and Pakistan overall, may be far from perfect, for the people of Makran, not participating will only aggravate the issues.
Maryam Nawaz withdraws
from NA-125
The Nation, $2^{\text {nd }}$ July, 2018

BHC disqualifies PPP provincial leader Ali Madad Jattak
Geo News, 2nd July, 2018

Seems Nawaz would boycott elections a week before polls: Asad Umar Geo News, 2 ${ }^{\text {nd }}$ July, 2018

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML N) leader and former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz has announced to withdraw her nomination papers from constituency NA-125. As per media reports, former PM Nawaz Sharif's daughter has announced to withdraw from election in NA-125.
She has filed an application with Returning Officer (RO) taking the plea that because of not withdrawing the nomination papers on time she has been allotted electoral symbol pencil as independent candidate, therefore, her name and her election symbol of pencil be not printed on her ballot papers.
QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) disqualified on Monday Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) provincial leader Ali Madad Jattak from contesting elections. A two-member bench comprising Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Nazeer Langoor declared the PPP leader ineligible to contest elections.
Earlier, Jattak had challenged the returning officers' (RO) decision in the appellate tribunal after he had been declared ineligible to contest the elections. When the appellate tribunal upheld the RO's decision, Jattak approached the BHC. The BHC then declared that the decision by the RO and appellate tribunal would stand.
In 2013, Jattak was sentenced to a two-year prison term and fined Rs10,000 in a fake degree case. The Additional Sessions Court in Quetta had sentenced Jattak after it had earlier reserved its verdict. Following the sentence, Jattak was arrested from the premises of the court and transferred to prison. He was elected as a member of the Balochistan Assembly in the 2008 election
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Umar said on Monday that it seems former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will call for boycott a week before polls.
Speaking to media at Darbar-Aaliya Morha Sharif, Umar said that Pakistan's economy is under pressure due to the flawed policies of previous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government, adding that if given chance in the coming election, PTI would resolve the water crisis in Islamabad on urgent basis. The PTI leader said that his party won't strike any deal with the Pakistan Peoples' Party to come into the corridors of power. "The way things are going it looks like Almighty Allah wants to take an important task from Imran Khan," he added.

increase by $30 \%$ in fiveyear period
The Express Tribune, 2nd July, 2018

Hamza to lead Maryam
Nawaz's campaign in NA-
127
Geo News, $2^{\text {nd }}$ July, 2018

Maryam Nawaz calls for action on Multan incident Dunya News, $2^{\text {nd }}$ July, 2018

JUIF Support Enhances Winning Chances Of
Shahbaz Sharif In Swat
Urdu Point, 2 ${ }^{\text {nd }}$ July, 2018

During his visit, Umar requested shrine's caretaker to do special prayers for his win in the forthcoming election. Meanwhile, Geo News reported citing sources that Nawaz and Maryam plan to return to Pakistan in a week. The decision to return to Pakistan was made after a consultation with senior leaders of the PML-N as well as pressure from some party workers, sources disclosed.
Further, a suggestion to have Maryam Nawaz return to Pakistan before Sharif himself is under consideration as well, sources added.
The PML-N supremo and the former first daughter, according to the sources, intend to lead their party's campaign ahead of the upcoming general election of 2018.
LAHORE: The number of non-Muslim voters registered in the country has increased by 30 percent over the last five years, according to statistics released by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), reported Express News.
The total count of non-Muslim voters stands at 3.63 million. Hindu voters make up the largest chunk with 1.77 million voters, with the majority of them settled in Sindh. The country's Christian community comes in at second spot with 1, 40,105 voters and the Ahmadi community has 167, 505 registered voters. The Baha'i community has 31,543 registered voters. In Pakistan, the number of registered Sikh voters stands at 8,852; Parsis at 4,235 and there are 1,884 registered Buddhist voters.
According to electoral lists, the majority of Hindu voters are in Sindh, where 40 percent reside in the two districts of Umar Kot and Tharparkar. Similarly, a large number of Christian voters are settled in Punjab. However, there are over 200,000 Christian voters in Sindh's different district, ts especially in Karachi. A large number of Sikh voters are settled in Khyber Pakhtukhawa (KP), Fata, Lahore and Nankana. The majority of Parsi voters are Sindh and most of the Jewish families are based in Karachi.

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Hamza Shehbaz Sharif will lead the election campaign of former first daughter Maryam Nawaz Sharif in National Assembly constituency NA-127 Lahore.
Maryam is currently in London, along with her father former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, to look after ailing Begum Kulsoom Nawaz.
Sources have informed that Nawaz and Maryam are expected to return to Pakistan in a week. The decision to return to Pakistan was made after consultation with senior leaders of the PML-N as well as pressure from some party workers, sources disclosed. Meanwhile, addressing a meeting party office bearers from NA-127, Hamza said that a comprehensive policy had been made, adding that he had assigned duties to the workers. "Metro bus and orange line train were given by the PML-N. We have to defeat the ones who betray," he added.
During the meeting, the participants also prayed for the recovery of Kulsoom Nawaz.
LONDON: Maryam Nawaz on Monday has called for action on Multan incident while accusing 'some elements' of inciting wrong custom of violence in the politics. Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) supremo Nawaz Sharif's political heir-apparent was talking to media in London.

Maryam Nawaz also demanded freedom for right to differ whereas she vowed to return to Pakistan soon. Maryam's statement came after PML-N's candidate from Multan Rana Iqbal Siraj overtly rejected Nawaz Sharif's remarks that he had been subjected to torture. Siraj held that officials of agriculture department carried out raid on his store.
Earlier, Maryam Nawaz on Monday withdrew her nomination papers from NA-125 constituency. As per details garnered, ex-pm's Maryam Nawaz's counsel Tanvir Zia Butt submitted a plea to the Returning Officer (RO) requesting to withdraw the nomination papers of Maryam Nawaz from NA125.

PESHAWAR: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Chief of his own faction of JUI, withdrawn his candidate from NA-3 Swat in favour of PMLN President and former Chief Minister Punjab, Shahbaz Sharif owing to seat adjustment between the two parties. The dramatic change in the constituency improved chances of Shahbaz Sharif to make a serious dent in the NA-3 Constituency previously own by PTI Salimur Rehman in 2013, said a senior journalist, Haroon Siraj hailing from the constituency. Maunala Fazl withdrawn ticket from his candidate, Maulana Hujatullah and forbid him from contest election against Shahbaz Sharif. However, Maulana Hujatullah revolted against the decision of his party chief and decided to contest election in an independent capacity.
Shahbaz Sharif and Maulana Falzur Rehman are expected to visit the constituency in a few days to offset the impact of dissident Maulana Hojatullah who revolted against the decision of the party Chief. The disgruntled Maulana Hujatullah moved the Election Commission for seeking 'book' as electoral symbol for the election from NA 3 Swat, however, the Election Commission has turned down his request and allotted him 'wrist watch' as electoral symbol to him.
The PTI had won all the national and six out of seven Provincial Assembly seats from Swat district in 2013 elections. PTI retained its former MNAs Murad Saeed and Salimur Rehman from NA-3 and NA 4 (former NA 29 and NA 30) from Swat district for the upcoming elections. PTI's Salimur Rehman will face Shahbaz Sharif from the constituency comprising Upper Swat.
A survey conducted by this scribe of the constituency revealed that PTI with five years Government on its back in KP may not a score which it had in 2013 and defiantly other parties will make inroads in Swat district in the July 2018.
Some of the electorates complained that both PTI former MNAs had ignored their Constituencies in last five years, therefore, the ground was not most suitable for them this time compare to last election and will have to face herculean task in the hands of Shahbaz Sharif and Amir Muqam. Shahbaz Sharif will cash on "Nawaz Sharif Kidney Hospital," the Punjab Government constructed in Upper


Journalists urged to highlight election laws The Nation, $2^{\text {nd }}$ July, 2018

PTM denies expelling Mohsin Dawar, Ali Wazir for contesting elections Express Tribune, $2^{\text {nd }}$ July, 2018

Swat in the upcoming election as this health facility provided state of the art medical treatment to the kidney patients of the far flung and remote areas of the constituency. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had inaugurated the kidney hospital after his name during his visit in May 2016 and addressed a huge gathering on the occasion.
Similarly, PMLN Government also constructed some roads and energy projects in Swat district which the facilitated local population to a great extent. It is not clear whether the PMLN projects would give any dividends to Shahbaz Sharif to cash it on July 25. Moreover, the electorates also complained that Swat district, called Switzerland of pakistan still faced the same problems as was existed before 2013 as PTI government failed to address the core issues of the Swat districts pertaining to promotion of tourism, improvement of road infrastructure and other civic problems.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced names of its candidates for seven National Assembly constituencies from formally known federally administered tribal areas (Fata) of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa for the 2018 general elections. According to the details issued by party's central media department, an important meeting of the party's parliamentary board for Fata was held on Saturday with PTI chief Imran Khan in the chair in Islamabad.
Gul Daad Khan, Gul Zafar Khan, Sajjad Khan, Noorul Haq Qadri, syed Iqbal Miyan, Aurangzeb Khan and Qaisar Jamal will be contesting upcoming general elections on PTI's ticket from NA-40,NA-41, NA-42, NA-43, NA-46, NA-48 and NA-51 respectively, said the statement issued after the meeting. The PTI election management was directed to make necessary arrangements in this regard.
PESHAWAR: Experts on electoral and governance stressed journalists for highlighting election laws and code of conduct for the candidates to ensure transparency and impartiality of the public and private institutions in the general elections.
A 3-day training session for journalists on civic education, election laws and administrative and role of political parties was organised under the auspices of Individual Land, a research-based consultancy and advocacy organisation, in collaboration with another not-for-profit organisation Tabeer - Consolidating Democracy in Pakistan. The workshop concluded on Sunday july 1st. Journalists both from print and electronic media participated in the workshop.
On the first day of the training, the participants were given tips on reporting on politics and political parties as well monitoring performance of the political parties while on the 2nd day, they were given detailed lecture on media's role in efficient functioning of the Election Commission of Pakistan and key points of the Election Act 2017 and role of media to sensitize citizens regarding election laws. Similarly, on 3rd day, experts on governance delivered speeches on civic education, governance, their elements, role of local governments, concept of citizenship, local governance and accountability and identifying civic indicators. Addressing the participants, Khurram Malik from Tabeer said that media should thoroughly delineate manifestos released by political parties so that citizens are well aware about the roadmap that a party is going to follow if elected to form the government.
Shabir Ahmad, an elections expert while sensitising journalists on the Elections Act 2017 said, "The new Act has a number of distinguishing features from the previous laws, however; it is media's responsibility to discuss these features in their elections related reporting".
Malik Masood from the Centre for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA) while conducting the session on civic education and good governance said, "Civic education and good governance are inter-related, therefore; the media needs to educate citizens to become civic minded for better governance." The organization has already organised similar trainings in Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi and Quetta. Saghir Ahmed Naqash and Mushoud Ali facilitated the training on behalf of Individual Land Pakistan.
PESHAWAR: The Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) denied that it had expelled senior leaders including Mohsin Dawar and Ali Wazir - from taking part in the upcoming election. Speaking to The Express Tribune, PTM leader Muhammad Bilal confirmed that the core committee membership of Dawar, Wazir, Abdullah Nangial and Abdul Waheed has been suspended, but they are still part of PTM. "We have only suspended their core committee membership. It does not mean the party has expelled them," he added. Bilal claimed that since the PTM was apolitical movement, it has barred its members from using the platform to contest the upcoming elections. While Waheed is no longer contesting elections, Dawar is vying for NA-48 (North Waziristan), Wazir is running for NA-50 (South Waziristan and Nangial for NA-51 (frontier regions).
Earlier in the day, the returning officer for South Waziristan district issued a notification allowing political parties and aspiring lawmakers of NA-49 and NA-50 to hold campaign processions and political gatherings in the territorial jurisdiction of South Waziristan "subject to the condition that all contesting candidates shall abide by the code of conduct issued the by Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)." The candidates, however, have been told to not conduct political gatherings, including corner meetings, during the evening or night.



Mohsin Dawar＠mjdawar • Jul 6
PTM social media activist＠HayatPreghal is still in the illegal detention of the security agencies．PTM will record a massive protest against $d$ extra judicial act of d security agencies at Haq Nawaz Park Tomorrow at 3 Pm，all the supporters of PTM are requested to join d protest．
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Mohsin Dawar＠mjdawar • Jul 5
Pak Army is opposing our election campaign wd thr full might，I was denied a phone connection for my office and the Army is now stoping every passenger vehicle with my posters from entering civil colony and other government buildings but it won＇t change public opinion
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Khatm－e－Nabuwat Clause Amend Issue


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（e）The Sub Committee in its 910 meeting，held on 24 May 2017. considered draft Elecrion Bill．Forms XXIII．XXVII and XXVIIC as redrafted by Ms．Amusha Rehman and Mr．Shafqar Mehmood，MNAs and it was decided that the Forns may be reviewed／redrafted by Ms． Anusha Rehman MOS for consideration in the nest meeting of the sub committee．
（f）The Sub Committee in its $92^{\text {Not }}$ meeting，held on 31 May 2017, considered redrafted Forms－XXIIt，XXVII and XXVIIC presented by Ms．Anusha Rehman，were approved subject to some rechecking／scrutiny by the Convenor（law minister）．＂
＂11．Later on，Leaders of all Parliamentary Parties were contacted by the Speaker of the National Assembly and were made to reatize the sensitivity of this issue and agreed in a meeting convened by the Speaker on October 4， 2017 and the originat wording of the Declaration was reinstated vide the Election（Amendment）Act． 2017.

12．All the Parliamentary Political Parries initially agreed to restore the original Articles $7 B$ and $7 C$ of Conduct of General Elections Order．2002．Consequently，amendment was made to restore these provisions．This was also implemented through the Elections （Amendment）Act referred to above．／Annex－G］

13．Later on through consensus of all Political parties the carlier


Mrs Ali Begum＠Mrs＿AliBegum • Jul 5
Major aims of contesting \＃GE2018 4m \＃NA46 \＃Kurram；
＊To promote inter－faith harmony \＆brotherhood among Shia－Sunnis 4 everlasting peace
＊To promote＂Tourism 4 Peace＂in lush green valley of Kurram，\＃Parachinar
＊To work 4 the provision f quality education \＆health facilities
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Mrs Ali Begum＠Mrs＿AliBegum •Jul 5
But the people in my constituency \＃NA46 \＃Kurram never restrict their women from casting their votes or seeking an education，which has resulted in the highest females literacy rate in the whole tribal belt previously called Fata． Women participation in \＃GE2018
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Mrs Ali Begum＠Mrs＿AliBegum • Jul 5
In tribal societies，cultural norms forbid men to utter the names of their womenfolk in front of male strangers，which results in a shortfall of women in voters＇lists，\＆women are also prevented from exercising their right to vote by families and local communities．
$1 / 2$



Hamid Mir @HamidMirPAK.5d
لابور كي حلقَ اين اع 126 كـع علاقون مير كندكى

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The Express Tribune
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Child brutally tortured for 'tearing \#PTI election poster' tribune.com.pk/story/1748040/...


11:38 pm - 2 Jul 2018

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26 Retweets
29 Likes
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Twitter Trending in Pakistan July 6 to 8, 2018

TRENDING 8-JUL'18

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TRENDING 7-JUL'18

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TRENDING 6-JUL'18

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Courtesy: www.tweeplers.com
TOP 10 TRENDING PEOPLE 8 furis)
4. Maryam Nawaz
6. Bilalwal Bhutto Zardari
7. Hamid Mir
8. Imran Khan
9. Aseefa B. Zardari
10. Bakhtawar B. Zardari

## CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

District: Lahore
Constituency: NA-123
No. of Settlements/ Communities: 33
Population 2018
Area
812,536
49.27 Sq.KM

NOTE: After the delimitation 2018, the numbers allocated to constituencies have changed. The following data shows the status of previous elections of the former constituency acquired by the new constituencies.
NA-118 is the former constituency which has been acquired by NA-123.

| General Election 2013 | NA-118 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Constituency | Muhammad Riaz Malik |
| Winner | PML-N |
| Party | 334,256 |
| Registered Votes | 169,137 |
| Votes Polled | 116,084 |
| Valid Votes | 3,171 |
| Rejected Votes | $50.60 \%$ |
| Percentage of Votes Polled to |  |
| registered voters |  |
| General Election 2008 | NA-118 |
| Constituency | Muhammad Riaz Malik |
| Winner | PML-N |
| Party |  |
| Registered Votes | 250,850 |
| Votes Polled | 94,620 |
| Valid Votes | 92,862 |
| Rejected Votes | 1,758 |
| Percentage of Votes Polled to | $37.7 \%$ |
| registered voters |  |

Dominant Political
Personalities

Health

## Education

Police Stations
District: Lahore
Constituency: NA-136
No. of Settlements/ Communities: 262
Population 2018
815,592

| Area | 441.6 Sq.KM |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NA-128 is the former constituency which has been acquired by NA-136. |  |  |
| Election | General Election 2013 |  |
|  | Constituency | NA-128 |
|  | Winner | Muhammad Afzal Khokhar |
|  | Party | PML-N |
|  | Registered Votes | 418,384 |
|  | Votes Polled | 220,976 |
|  | Valid Votes | 220,114 |
|  | Rejected Votes | 3,174 |
|  | Percentage of Votes Polled to registered voters | 64.00\% |
|  | General Election 2008 |  |
|  | Constituency | NA-128 |
|  | Winner | Muhammad Afzal Khokhar |
|  | Party | PML-N |
|  | Registered Votes | 275,267 |
|  | Votes Polled | 125,374 |
|  | Valid Votes | 122,617 |
|  | Rejected Votes | 2,757 |
|  | Percentage of Votes Polled to registered voters | $45.54 \%$ |
| Dominant Political Personalities | In 2013, Muhammad Afzal Khokhar from PML-N was a winner by getting 124,107 votes. The second highest votes polled Malik Karamat Ali Khokhar from PTI got 78,369 votes. |  |
|  | In 2008, Muhammad Afzal Khokhar from PML-N was a winner by getting 65,727 votes. The second highest votes polled to Malik Karamat Ali Khokhar from PPPP got 37,608 votes. |  |
| Health | Total number of Health Facilities: 35 |  |
|  | Private: 23 |  |
|  | Government: 12 |  |
| Education | Total Number of Educational Institutions: 255 |  |
|  | Male: 80 |  |
|  | Female: 69 |  |
|  | Co-Education: 76rivate: 55 |  |
|  | Government: 170 |  |
| Police Stations | 2 |  |

# Pakistan: General Elections Subverted By Army-Judiciary Nexus - Analysis 

Eurasia review News \& Analysis, 6 July, 2018
By Dr Subhash Kapila

Pakistan General Elections July 2018 could have been a defining moment in Pakistan's political history of a back-to-back democratic transfer of power through the ballot box. But all portents available a month prior to General Elections 2018 suggest that this would be a farcical exercise as Pakistan Army-Judiciary nexus has contrived a political vacuum facilitating Imran Khan to emerge as their preferred winner. With just about three weeks remaining for the July 2018 General Elections to take place the Pakistan Army has set in motion the unrestrained levers of power at its disposal to ensure the political field in the General Elections is left open for PTI Chairman Imran Khan's assured victory. This is in addition to the political disqualification of Former PM Nawaz and also ruling that all decisions taken by him while in power stood nullified. Pakistan Army's notorious intelligence agency the ISI has been pressed into proactive mode to coerce, intimidate and threaten PML-N politicians to desert the party and join PTI led by Imran Khan. The ISI also has gone around Pakistani media houses and threatened dire consequences against criticism of the Pakistani establishment. Therefore the question that comes to the forefront is whether Pakistan General Elections could throw up an honest political result as against the scripted outcome of the Army-Judiciary nexus preference for PTI Chairman Imran Khan? Former PM Nawaz Sharif who won major election victories in the last two General Elections in Pakistan stands disqualified for life on specious grounds inflicted by Pakistan Supreme Court Chief Justice, Once again a Chief Justice of Pakistan Supreme Court has colluded with the Pakistan military hierarchy to impede the emergence of purist PM Nawaz in Pakistan as against Pakistan Army's persistent credo that Pakistan needs "Guided Democracy". Pakistan Chief Justices have traditionally endorsed Pakistan Army rule in the past with the exception of Chief Justice Iftekhar Chaudhary who defied General Musharraf when he was in power. It is intriguing as to what motives impel Pakistan Chief Justice Nasir Saqib in his political crusade against Former PM Nawaz Sharif coincidental with the end-aim of Pakistan Army Generals? One read somewhere that Chief Justice Saqib in his years as a lawyer was on a retainer to pursue Nawaz Sharif's legal cases in the past. What has now changed which forces Chief Justice Saqib to be on a virtual crucifixion of the Sharif family and their party Whatever it may be, the fact is that Pakistan Supreme Court Chief Justice Saqib has irretrievably harmed the emergence of purist democracy in Pakistan. Political corruption in Pakistan is a national phenomenon and singling out Former PM Nawaz Sharif on by the Army-Judiciary nexus on corruption charges implying that Imran Khan and Zardari are the paragons of virtues is insulting the intelligence of the average Pakistan voter. PTI Chairman Imran Khan in an interview to a Pakistani TV channel conceded that there was enough corruption within his PTI Party.What needs to be recalled at this stage is as to why the Pakistan Army which initiated and brought Former PM Nawaz Sharif into politics in the Nineties felt compelled to unseat PM Nawaz Sharif three times and never let him complete his tenures as PM? The answers to this brings home many lessons to the fore both for Pakistan's political leaders and the Pakistan Army which in its arrogance perceives that is has an eternal blank cheque to meddle in Pakistan's political dynamics in a manner which definitely impedes the evolution of comprehensive democracy and democratic norms.

The major lesson for political leaders arising from the above applies more to Pakistan Army's favourite candidate PTI Chairman Imran Khan. If on July 252018 the Pakistan Army succeeds in installing Imran Khan as the latest Prime Minister of Pakistan then how does Imran Khan reconcile the aspirations of those sections of the Pakistani masses who today seem mesmerised by Imran Khan's agenda of 'Change Pakistan'?
'Change Pakistan 'would involve a total restructuring of Pakistan's governance and its political dynamics. Will the Pakistan Army permit Imran Khan's agenda of 'Change Pakistan' into effect? If not, then the only alternative for Imran Khan would be to remain an impotent poster boy of the Pakistan Army and subordinate all his so-called visionary promises for the betterment of Pakistan to the agenda of the Pakistan Army. Intriguingly, what baffles political analysis is the reality check of Pakistan's political dynamics is the fact that virtually the entire Pakistan Army General hail from Punjab and so does Former PM Nawaz Sharif who enjoys mass political support in Pakistan Heartland of PakistanPunjab. Are the Punjabi Generals not aware of this reality? Or alternatively that the Punjabi Generals of Pakistan Army are aware of this reality but are dancing to the tunes of external patrons which favour Pakistan Army or its political protégé in power to suit their national security interests?

Lastly, a major political imponderable over the political scene in Pakistan is the medical condition of Kulsoom Nawaz who is the wife of Nawaz Sharif. She has been for months in London in critical medical care and virtually on life-support systems. Allah forbid, if in the run-up to General Election 2018 Kulsoom Nawaz passes away then a massive wave of sympathy could rise in Pakistan Punjab adding to the existing sympathy wave of Former PM Nawaz Sharif being victimised by the Army-Judiciary nexus. This could unravel the scripted blueprint of the Army-Judiciary nexus. Since Pakistan Army has reflexively over the last 70 years has subverted Pakistan's General Elections and also imposed military rule for extended periods at intervals, the question that goes begging is what forces can put an end to this miserable cycle of subversion of Pakistan's nascent democracy?External patrons who matter in Pakistan's governance like the United States and China would be disinclined to intervene to restore full democracy in Pakistan as it would not serve their national interests in the region. That only leaves the Pakistani masses to indulge in a massive protest and disobedience political movement to break the shackles of Pakistan Army's grip on Pakistan's political dynamics. It has happened in the past with the Million Man March from Lahore to Islamabad to shake the Pakistan Army. And, who was the Pakistani political leader who generated and led this massive demonstration of political strength? It was PML-N leader Former PM Nawaz Sharif. Could there be a repeat in the wake of July 252018 General Elections? I feel it is highly likely.
In conclusion, political transformation of Pakistan can only be brought about by the Pakistani masses to send the Pakistan Army to the barracks and re-invent Pakistan into a moderate, progressive and democratic Islamic Republic. The Pakistani masses by girding up their loins will not only resurrect the real Pakistan but also in the bargain ensue that sustainable peace ensues in South Asia.
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[^0]:    K-P to install 13,000 cameras
    Express Tribune, $4^{\text {th }}$ July, 2018

