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General Elections 2024 PML-N, PPP & independent candidates leading electoral race in NA and PAs

Mobile service suspended partially in different areas

LAHORE (Agencies): As per provisional / unofficial results – subject to verification and confirmation – coming after polls closed, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Pakistan Peoples Party and independent candidates [mainly those affiliated with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf] are leading the electoral race in the national and provincial assemblies.

Preliminary results of the 2024 general elections have begun to emerge from various national and provincial constituencies as the vote count commenced in

the evening following the conclusion of day-long polling across the country on Thursday.

Projections of first results indicate that no party could attain an outright majority, although political bigwigs Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari, Shehbaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto are gradually widening the margin of victory against their contestants.

As per unverified and unconfirmed reports, the PML-N is on its way to reclaim its political stronghold of Lahore, with its election candidates attaining

lead over competitors on 12 out of a total of 14 national assembly seats.

Former three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is leading in Lahore's NA-130.

Likewise, PML-N leaders Shehbaz Sharif is inching towards victory in NA-123, Hamza Shehbaz in NA-118 and Maryam Nawaz in NA-119.

Mobile service was suspended partially in different areas of the country including Islamabad due to security threat on the occasion of general election 2024.



QUETTA: Polling staff counting votes in a polling station at Postal Colony during General Elections-2024.

Peaceful conducting of polls manifests better strategy of interim government, security agencies: Ali Mardan Domki

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has expressed satisfaction over conducting general elections in peaceful manner in the province.

In an official statement issued here on Thursday, the caretaker Chief Minister said that the people of Balochistan showed deep interest in election of the parliamentary representatives through free and fair elections proving their collective political consciousness.

He said that no extraordinary incident was occurred during the polling process all over the province, which speaks high about the better strategy adopted by the in-

terim provincial government and security institutions, he maintained. He greeted the Pak army, Frontier Corps, police, Levies and other law enforcement agencies on holding the elections successfully and peacefully. He also expressed satisfaction over that the people took wholehearted part in the polling process all over the province and they remained present in the premises of polling stations despite end of the polling process.

He said that all conspiracies of keeping the people of Balochistan away from the polling process by harassing them proved to be futile. Except few incidents, the overall polling process remained peaceful, the Chief Minis-

ter maintained.

He also said that certain subversive acts were foiled by the interim government and security agencies through effective strategy. He said that no major terrorism incident was occurred in the province except two incidents took place in Killa Saifullah and Pishin districts. He said that the national obligation of general elections was completed successfully by mobilizing all available resources. In the end, while appreciating the role of Pak Army and FC in peaceful conducting of the general elections, the Chief Minister expressed best wishes for the Corps Commander Lt. General Rahat Nasim Ahmed Khan and IG FC North Balochistan.

Justice Naem Afghan casts vote at Boy Scouts Association polling station

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Justice Balochistan High Court (BHC), Mr. Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan cast his vote

cast their votes in the polling station established there.

The Chief Justice comingled with the polling



along with wife in the provincial metropolis on Thursday. The Chief Justice BHC reached the Balochistan Boy Scouts Association headquarter along with his wife and they

staff and voters present at the polling station.

He on the occasion appealed to the voters to come out of their homes and cast votes to elect their best representatives.

CM Domki reviews voting process in metropolis

QUETTA (6AM Report): The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki visited the polling stations established in different parts of the provincial metropolis on Thursday.

During the course of visit, the caretaker Chief Minister reviewed the process of polling continued at the polling stations.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Domki said that he is personally monitoring the election process all over the province.

He maintained that the process of polling is continued all over the province in peaceful manner.

He said that the voters are using their right of franchise calmly in the province.

Military hopes election will serve as catalyst for strengthening democracy

Monitoring Desk
RAWALPINDI: The armed forces of Pakistan have congratulated the nation on the "generally peaceful and violence-free" conduct of the general elections, and expressed the hope it would serve as a "catalyst for further strengthening democracy in Pakistan."

not be in vain and this election will serve as a catalyst for further strengthening democracy in Pakistan, and that it will pave the way for the realisation of the aspirations of the people of Pakistan," the military's media wing, the ISPR, said in a statement.

"The armed forces remain dedicated to upholding peace and security in

the country and stand ready to provide unwavering support in safeguarding the democratic traditions of our state," it stated.

The ISPR stated that the armed forces alongside other law enforcement agencies (LEAs) are proud to have played a pivotal role in providing security during the conduct of the sacred electoral process.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visits various polling stations for the General Elections 2024 in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Voting process ends in 36 districts of Balochistan quite peacefully

Independent Report

QUETTA: The polling process has been completed in all 67 constituencies of the National Assembly and Provincial Assembly from Balochistan on Thursday.

Except few incidents of subversive acts including bomb blasts, firing and minor scuffles, the overall process remained peaceful all over the province.

The process of polling started at 08:00 AM which continued till 05:00 PM without any break.

Extraordinary security arrangements were made to avert any untoward incident at the polling stations and other places in all districts of the province.

Around 66,000 personnel of different law enforcement agencies including police, Levies besides Frontier Corps (FC) and Pak Army were deployed for security during the elections in Balochistan.

The deployment of the security personnel was made in and outside the polling stations besides at other places.

The mobile phone and Internet services remained mostly affected in Quetta and different other parts of the province. As a result, the general public faced hardships to remain connected with their dear ones. In addition to this, the candidates also faced problems to contact with their voters. Different subversive incidents were reported from Quetta, Kohlu, Kharan, Gwadar, Panjgur and different other areas in which a Levies personnel was killed few other persons were injured.

The Kharan IED last left one levies cop dead besides causing injuries to two other persons.

There were few complaints about late arrival of the polling staff at some polling stations in different areas of the province.

While quite long queues of the voters were witnessed at some polling stations, otherwise no extraordinary rush was seen at most of the places in the province. Meanwhile, the caretaker Chief Minister visited polling stations in Quetta city. Similarly, the Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Provincial Election Commissioner Muhammad Farid Afridi, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and other high ups kept on visiting control room, different polling stations to review the arrangements made for polling there. It may be mentioned here that altogether 1696 candidates were in the competition run for all 67 general seats of the National and Provincial assemblies. They were included 429 candidates contesting elections on National Assembly seats while 1,267 candidates are in the run for 51 Provincial Assembly's seats.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki and Commander 12 Corps Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan reviewing Polling Station.

Achakzai denies BNP President's statement regarding fake form 45

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Balochistan, Jan Achakzai has rebutted the statement of President of Balochistan National Party (BNP-M) Sardar Akhtar Mengal's regarding fake form 45.

In a statement issued here on his social media account "X", Jan Achakzai stated that if he (Sardar Akhtar Mengal) possesses any evidence to support his claims, he should present it to the relevant authorities.

The statement further suggests that Mengal Sahib's accusations might stem from anxieties about potential electoral defeat, leading him to attempt to

delegitimize the process.

He said that it is crucial for leaders of Mengal Sahib's stature to refrain from disseminating potentially fabricated information.

Such actions can erode public trust and impede constructive dialogue, Jan Achakzai added.

It may be mentioned here that Sardar Akhtar Mengal had alleged that we have received credible information indicating fake Form 45 would be presented to polling agents, with results to be changed.

He also alleged that deliberate efforts to create chaos at certain polling stations, while counts will be adjusted elsewhere.

Bilawal says his mandate can't be given to anyone else

Independent Report
LARKANA (INP): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday said his mandate could not be handed over to anyone else and added that the people had every right to cast their votes.

Talking to media at a polling station which visited to poll his vote, Bilawal asked the people to leave their homes and exercise their basic right, as he opined that suspending mobile phone service would result in a low turnout while also making it difficult to contact the returning officers.

Bilawal had previously accused three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of trying to influence the caretaker governments for favourable results.

However, the PPP has been facing the allegations of vote buying in Lahore where his rival candidate Attaullah Tarar told him that the city wasn't a no-go area and he didn't enjoy any public support.

Earlier in the day, the PPP chairman had criticised the move to suspend the mobile phone and internet service across Pakistan, asking his party to move the courts and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

PM greets nation on conduct of successful polls

Says high voter turnout indicates public commitment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday congratulating the nation over the successful conduct of general elections 2024, said the high voter turnout was a clear indication of public commitment to shaping the country's future.

"The participation and enthusiasm of the people of Pakistan have been the cornerstone of this democratic exercise.

The high voter turnout is a clear indication of public commitment to shaping the future of our country," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline following the polling ended after a smooth and peaceful process across the country.

He appreciated the ef-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Dr. Gohar Ejaz and Head of Commonwealth Observation Group Dr. Goodluck Jonathan addressing the media during General Elections-2024.

Don't mention name of coalition govt: Nawaz

LAHORE (Online): PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif has said name of coalition government be not mentioned.

"Don't mention name of coalition government. If problems have to be resolved then full mandate should be given to one party. Party will decide about making Maryam Nawaz Chief Minister (CM) Punjab. No problem has ever remained with the army, he said this while talking to local and foreign journalists here Thursday.

He held fair and transparent elections are being held this time in the country. Fair and transparent elections have always taken place in Pakistan except a few years before.

To a question from journalist will he forge deal with the army he said there is no need to strike any deal with the army. There has been no problem ever with army.

He stated people should come out of homes



LARKANA: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari casts his vote in Shaheed Major Mujahid Mirani Government Boys Primary School Polling Station Naudero in the constituency NA-194 and PS-10 during General Elections-2024.

6 security personnel martyred in KP, Balochistan attacks

D.I. KHAN/KHARAN (Online): At least six security personnel were martyred, 11 injured in separate attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan's Kharan.

First attack was made on police party in D.I. Khan and second attack was made on security forces in Kharan area of Balochistan.

According to the police, the militants attacked the police vehicle with a grenade in the Kulachi Tehsil. 4 police men were martyred while 6 were injured.

Police rushed to the scene on information and heavy contingent of police were called.

In retaliatory firing by police and security forces terrorists fled.

Police mobile which was targeted was deployed on security duty in Garah Aslam police station. Sub inspector Aslam Khanzada and others were seated in police mobile. The bodies of martyred policemen and injured were shifted to the hospital. Police and security forces have started search operation.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Friday February 09, 2024

People's voice

There is a hush today in the corridors of power. A higher force stirs. The time is at hand for the people of Pakistan to speak and for others, in nations near and far, to bear witness to their decision. This electoral cycle has been unlike any in recent memory.

At stake are not only the continuity and evolution of the country's crisis-ridden political system but also the foundations of its social contract. With the country at a crossroads, 128m voters have been handed the power to decide which path it should take forward. It is hoped that most will exercise it today in any one of the more than 92,000 polling stations nationwide.

Thousands are contesting for the 266 National Assembly seats, and thousands more for a seat in one of the provincial assemblies. By tonight, hopefully, we will know whom the voters have chosen to trust. It is important that everyone make themselves heard. Our freedoms and choices may be limited, but the only lawful means to improve our lot is by voting in sound and capable leaders who are best suited to representing us in parliament. This right should not be foregone. Exercising the vote is not merely a civic duty; it is an assertion of one's freedom, a declaration of agency, and a reaffirmation of one's belonging to this nation. We are fortunate to have this right, which has been earned through the sacrifices of generations past.

This election has been a silver lining throughout the tumult that has lately roiled Pakistan. For months, the people have been looking forward to having a say in who ought to be making executive decisions on their behalf. Despite many apprehensions, they have held on to the belief that their right to choose will make a difference. Today, as this right is exercised, the public's will must be respected by all without qualifications or limitations. The ballot box is not merely a receptacle for pieces of paper. It is the crucible in which millions of Pakistanis place their aspirations, grievances and dreams as they renew their contract with the state. It is important that the state respects this trust and facilitates the exercise in every manner.

The tragic loss of life in Balochistan yesterday has cast a pall of gloom. As indicated in the editorial below, the state must take every measure to ensure citizens' security today and guarantee that the polling exercise will be held in a safe environment. Given that they are being held after considerable delay, it is important that voters are able to participate freely in these elections, which must be concluded to the public's satisfaction. History awaits our people's verdict. The state should not falter or fail them in this defining moment.

Election 2024, Revenge and retribution

By Qamar Bashir

Press Secretary to the President(Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

On election day, a multifaceted portrayal emerges from both social and traditional media, heralding the peaceful conclusion of the voting process. Despite efforts from all political parties, including state machinery, to diminish PTI's influence, they misread the pulse of Pakistani voters. The dynamics of voting were reshaped by factors such as the influx of young and women voters, increased digital literacy and penetration, and the pervasive influence of social media platforms like WhatsApp. These elements were pivotal in this election, unlike in previous ones, marking a new era of voter empowerment in Pakistani politics.

While the state favored PML(N), the tactics employed by the state were thwarted by voters' resentment over the heavy-handed crackdown on PTI leadership and supporters. Through their ballots, voters triumphed over planned irregularities, intimidation tactics, and pre-election rigging, underscoring a collective rejection of state interference. The high voter turnout exemplified heightened public engagement and a desire for change. Overall, the prevailing mood among voters was one of seeking retribution for perceived injustices and asserting their autonomy in the electoral process.

Unfortunately, between the hours of 9 pm and 12 midnight, mobile and internet services were once again disrupted, causing a slowdown in the reporting of election results. This disruption occurred at a critical juncture, coinciding with the unexpected strong performance of PTI and PPP representatives, and the underwhelming showing of PML(N). Returning offices cited server downtimes and technical difficulties as reasons for the delay, yet failed to provide clear explanations or confirm results compiled by presiding officers. The Election Commission intervened, instructing returning officers not to compile or issue results independently, but to forward them to the Commission for announcement, if deemed appropriate.

Despite widespread complaints from political parties about the prolonged delay, PML(N) remained conspicuously silent on the matter. Observers voiced their frustration and anger over the prolonged delay, labeling it a conspiracy against both the country and its people. In Sindh, PPP enjoyed significant success in rural areas, resulting in swift and apparent results. However, in Punjab and KP provinces, the results trickled in alarmingly slowly, raising suspicions of deliberate obstruction.

At midnight, despite the slowdown in reporting, notable developments emerged in various constituencies across Pakistan. Shuib Shaheen in Islamabad secured a comfortable lead in PS 27, while Taj Mohammad of PTI surged ahead against the JUI candidate. Palarosan of PPP emerged victorious in Khairpur, while Ali Amin secured a commanding lead over Maulana Fazal ur Rehman. However, Jehangir Tareen of IPP faced defeat in both seats. Fazal Mohammad of PTI was also in the lead, and Umer Ayub clinched victory in 18 Haripur with a significant margin against PML(N). Asad Qaiser of PTI emerged victorious over the JUI-F candidate with a substantial lead, and Mr. Zubair Khan of PTI secured a win in Battagram PK 34 against a JUI-F candidate.

Meanwhile, Nawaz Sharif appeared to be leading with a clear majority. At 12:30 am, these results prompted a sense of quiet unease in the PML(N) media center, where Nawaz Sharif was scheduled to deliver a victory speech. Journalists, who had been prepared for the event, were informed accordingly. However, a tweet from state representatives suggested optimism for PML(N) in Balochistan constituencies. Despite this, the dismal results in Punjab and KP provinces shifted discussions on TV channels toward the possibility of a PPP and PTI coalition government.

At 12:37 am in Karachi, Khalid Maqbool Siddique of MQM Haqparast confidently claimed victory in 18 to 19 out of 21 seats, breaking all previous records. He pledged to serve all citizens of Karachi, regardless of gender, race, or ethnicity. Asif Ali Zardari expressed satisfaction with the incoming results and congratulated Bilawal Bhutto on the outstanding performance, asserting that the next government would be formed by the PPP. Meanwhile, TV commentators, who had previously speculated on a strong PML(N) victory and ousted the potential oath-taking of Nawaz Sharif as Prime Minister and Maryam Nawaz as Chief Minister of Punjab, shifted their focus. They now deliberated on the likelihood of a PPP and PTI coalition government at the center, advising PML(N) to gracefully accept defeat and assume the role of the opposition.

Which prompted the Election Commission to completely freeze the result by 01 am ws the results which were pouring in at 10pm and earlier at 7 pm respectively. At 10 pm the PTI was maintaining the overall lead in Punjab and KP province where the PTI was sweeping. In Sindh, PPP was facing stiff competition from GDA. Mian Nawaz Sharif was trailing behind Gustasib Khan in Mansehra. Amin Gandpure was winning with a large margin against Moulana Fazal ur Rehman. Atta Tarar who was trailing behind Bilawal Bhutto started leading. PTI's Qaiser was winning by a large margin. Zartaj Gul, Aminpur Gandapur and Salman Akram Raja of PTI maintained their lead. Ms. Rehana Dar who was trailing behind Khawaja Asif in Sialkot started leading.

Hafiz Mohammad Saad Rizvi was winning in Attack. Umer Ayub in Haripur was winning by a large margin. Mr. Waqas Akram started winning. Mr. Shahbaz Sharif started trailing Sardar M. Hussain Dogar, in Kasur, considered a big setback to PML(N). The PTI candidate was close to Shahbaz Sharif in Lahore. Mian Latif, a strong candidate of PML(N) started losing against the PTI candidate. Khawaja Saad Rafique was ahead of Latif Khosa in Lahore. Usama of PTI was beating Ehsan Ranja of PML(N). The comments on all channels started shifting away from PML(N) in favor of PTI. Barrister Gohar Ali of PTI was leading by a large margin. Shaukat Basra of PTI was leading against PML(N). Mir Muqam was losing by a large margin. The mobile services which were restored, were once again terminated and elections result were slowed down, leading to rumors that since the PTI is winning in most of the seats, therefore, the state might step in to help its

favorite party. The termination of internet and mobile services were terminated throughout the day. Which were criticized by PPP and PTI criticized it, alleging an attempt to suppress voter turnout and manipulate the outcome. This move sparked debates in traditional and social media, with some supporting the security measures for maintaining stability, while others condemned it for impeding citizens' rights and hindering transparency in the electoral process.

The Human Rights Commission has expressed concern regarding the termination of internet and mobile services in the lead-up to the elections. They have criticized the blackout, highlighting its impact on citizens' rights to access information and communicate freely. The Commission views such actions as potentially infringing upon democratic principles and impeding the transparency of the electoral process. They emphasize the importance of balancing security measures with the protection of fundamental rights, urging authorities to ensure that such disruptions are proportionate and justified.

Local and international observers have provided observations on the conduct of the elections thus far. Local observers have noted issues such as irregularities, voter intimidation, and violence in certain areas, raising concerns about transparency and fairness. Similarly, international observers have emphasized the importance of free and fair elections, calling for impartiality, transparency, and adherence to electoral laws. They stress the need for accountability and transparency to ensure public

confidence in the electoral process. Both local and international observers continue to monitor closely and provide assessments to uphold democratic standards.

The Election 2024 was marked by pre-poll harassment, intimidation, and threats faced by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership which prompted International observers to echo these concerns, emphasizing the need for a peaceful and transparent electoral process free from coercion and violence. A day prior to and during the pooling day throughout Pakistan, the security situation though remained largely tolerable was also marred with various incidents of violence including instances of voter intimidation, raising concerns about the integrity of the process.

As the tumultuous events of the 2024 elections in Pakistan unfold, a narrative emerges of resilience and determination amidst adversity. Despite challenges ranging from disruptions in communication to incidents of violence and intimidation, the Pakistani electorate has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to democracy. The power of the vote has prevailed over attempts to manipulate and suppress it, as voters have asserted their agency and sought to shape the future of their nation. As the dust settles and the results begin to take shape, it is clear that the path forward will be marked by continued vigilance, accountability, and a steadfast dedication to upholding democratic principles. In the face of uncertainty, Pakistan stands poised to embrace its democratic destiny, guided by the collective will of its people and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

field and that free and fair polls are being conducted. The role of the ECP as an impartial body guaranteeing free polls is being questioned. It is apparent that the ground was being cleared for the PML-N to sail through. But given the voters' sentiments, it will not be a cakewalk for Nawaz Sharif's party, notwithstanding the support from the security establishment. There is always a limit to the extent such manipulations can work and obtain 'positive results'.

While Punjab may be the main electoral battleground, the outcome in the other provinces will also be extremely critical to determining the post-election power equation. It may be difficult for the security establishment to completely manage the poll in KP where the popular tide in favour of the PTI is much stronger. The PML-N does not have a significant support base in the province except for some pockets in Hazara district. It will certainly be much harder for the establishment to keep PTI voters away from polling. It is apparent that the

kind of intimidation being used in Punjab may not work in the extremely volatile situation prevailing in the province. Meanwhile, a surge in militant violence against the police and other law-enforcement agencies has aggravated the law-and-order situation, making the job of the administration much harder. Any use of force against the opposition could have serious repercussions.

A completely different electoral dynamic is in play in Sindh where the PPP still holds the dominant position. While no surprise is expected in the interior where the PPP doesn't face any challenge, the situation in Karachi appears unpredictable, with many parties in the field. But the hold of the PPP on the province seems unshakable. It is also hopeful of getting a significant share of seats in Balochistan. Given this advantage, the party is now focusing on regaining some lost space in Punjab and KP in order to be a player in the battle for Islamabad. It is not surprising that the party has trained its guns on the PML-N that it sees as a

major rival in the power contest. The entire effort of the party leadership in those provinces is to win over PTI supporters. But there is no indication yet of the party having made much of a breakthrough in this direction.

However, the PPP leadership appears confident of garnering the support of independents mainly affiliated with the PTI, who are expected to return to the National Assembly in large numbers. It will be a different ball game then, with PTI-affiliated independents holding the balance of power. Such a situation may completely spoil the PML-N establishment game plan. What happens after Feb 8 remains unpredictable despite the unprecedented manipulation and pre-poll rigging. It may turn into, as one analyst described it, a popular wave against the state.

The unpredictable outcome of the polls could also prove a serious test for the security establishment. Vote-rigging may be the establishment's last resort. But that would be at the cost of the country's future. -- Courtesy Dawn

Paradox of Election 2024

Zahid Hussain

Pakistan goes to the polls today amid despair and uncertainty. For many, the outcome has already been decided, with one of the largest political parties having been effectively forced out of the race. Yet, surprises cannot be ruled out.

Whatever the result, the 2024 polls will have a huge impact on the future course of Pakistani politics. The most important question is: how would it change the country's power equation? With the PTI virtually out of the equation, the stage seems to have been set for Nawaz Sharif's return to power. The resurrection of the three-time prime minister tells the story of the ever-shifting sands of Pakistani politics.

It is, however, not over yet. The polls could throw up many surprises. A large turnout could defy the odds. The return of a large number of 'independents' could alter the entire power game. A fragmented mandate could push the country's politics onto uncharted territory.

These punitive actions appear to be part of a plan to discourage PTI voters from coming out to vote today. Yet it could

have the opposite effect, causing angry supporters to break the wall of fear. The power of social media and artificial intelligence has become a major tool for the party to mobilise its voters with, mostly the youth, thus impacting the outcome of the polls. Any attempt to shut down the internet today is not likely to be effective.

Punjab, the country's biggest province with more than half of the National Assembly seats, is the main battleground. That may be the reason why the security establishment is resorting to repressive tactics against the PTI and other dissident groups. Until the very end, the Punjab police was reportedly raiding PTI election offices and the homes of candidates backed by the party. There were also reports of candidates affiliated with the PTI being picked up in order to prevent them from campaigning.

Such actions against a particular party refutes the claim of the caretaker administration and the Election Commission of Pakistan that all sides are being given a level playing

field and that free and fair polls are being conducted. The role of the ECP as an impartial body guaranteeing free polls is being questioned. It is apparent that the ground was being cleared for the PML-N to sail through. But given the voters' sentiments, it will not be a cakewalk for Nawaz Sharif's party, notwithstanding the support from the security establishment. There is always a limit to the extent such manipulations can work and obtain 'positive results'.

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The unpredictable outcome of the polls could also prove a serious test for the security establishment. Vote-rigging may be the establishment's last resort. But that would be at the cost of the country's future. -- Courtesy Dawn

Kamila Hyat

Over the coming hours and days, we will know the results of the 2024 election and what it means for our future. While many have claimed that they can easily predict what the outcome is to be, others maintain that surprises could still occur and the final shape of things could look very different from that which is being widely predicted.

The key question before any election however has still to be answered. What, after all, are we voting for and why? The major parties have all put out manifestos. The PPP was perhaps the most determined to put out its manifesto divided into several parts, including pamphlets with summaries of the key points, earlier on in the campaign, and distribute it over social media. But the PML-N and PTI have also come up with their manifestos. The PML-N is looking deeply into the economic future and promising to deliver. The PTI, meanwhile, has spoken about a 'Shandar Pakistan' in the future and an escape from a past,

which is 'kharab' or bad in many different ways. The party has also hinted at a more presidential-like system, with people directly voting for the prime minister.

The truth however is that behind the well-written lines and the carefully portrayed ideas of these manifestos, there is very little. It is hard to believe that any of the objectives put forward can actually be implemented. The PPP has totally failed to explain this, though it does talk of moving towards a revolution put in place through the constitution under the 18th Amendment. The PML-N too has not quite explained how it will rescue the country from its extremely precarious position and the PTI appears a little confused in what it is aiming for. This is a familiar pattern from elections in the past.

This election is however somewhat different from those held in previous years. There is a much greater element of tension and animosity between the parties and a bigger role played by other forces. But we will need to see how people decide

where to cast their votes and how many of them turn out to do so. The turnout will in many ways be crucial to determining what way the election swings and who emerges as the victor in the end.

This brings us to the wider question of what purpose the elections serve. The reality is that people want their immediate problems resolved. They are not interested so much in long-term economic policies as much as they are in short-term outcomes such as a decrease in inflation. In some cases, the inflation has led to suicides. This is a desperate situation. Perhaps the most desperate the country has ever faced. The question for any party then will be how it is going to put forward policies and then implement them to save Pakistan.

The truth is that no party has been very successful in putting forward any clear and trustworthy ambition that people can believe in. Simply big words and nicely manufactured pamphlets or social media posts are not enough to convince people now. After all, Pakistan today has a significant

history of democracy even if most of its seven decades or more have been under authoritarian rule. But people everywhere ask why the slogan of Pakistan's first election, in 1970 - 'Roti Kapra aur Makan' - has not been fulfilled even today. They ask how the PPP is to build tens of thousands of houses it has promised for the flood-affected people of the province who are still homeless more than one and a half years after the floods occurred.

The same is true of the PML-N's vision of an economic turnaround with a return of Nawaz Sharif. There are people everywhere who ask what exactly Nawaz Sharif gave them and if they want more. The PTI has a cult-like following but again it is unclear if people will continue to back it as they have in the past. It is likely however that at least some of its vote bank will stay intact just as will that of the PML-N in Punjab and the PPP in Sindh. The outcome in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular will be interesting with the JUI-F vying for power in the province at the same time as its leader

What are we voting for?

Maulana Fazalur Rahman vies for the post of president of the country. This too will be something to watch even if in Pakistan's strictly parliamentary system, the president has very few real powers.

Perhaps the final decisions will be made by the smaller parties. The TLP has gone out of its way to try and make itself a little more acceptable by putting up slogans such as protecting the rights of minorities. The reality however is that this is difficult to believe given the past of the party. The TLP has however picked up a significant number of votes notably in Punjab in past by-polls and could be a player in terms of determining what voting patterns are in particular constituencies.

It is also possible that at least one or two of the major parties may try to bring it into an alliance of one kind or the other. Other parties in a similar position including smaller groups are either making a comeback or putting up candidates for the first time. Pakistan has over 130 political parties in the fray and the vote that goes out to smaller parties af-

fects the overall situation in the 'first past the post' system used in electioneering in the country. So in the next few days, as talk shows and election specials continue on TV screens, we will know who the victors are or what the party positions are to be for 2024. This is significant. But we also know other powers are significant as well. Pakistan has now been left with no option but to return to the IMF, the so-called lender of last resort, to keep its economy viable and afloat in the given situation. The main question for people then is whether the economy can make any kind of comeback and if there will be some fall in the crippling inflation which has hit almost everyone across the country.

It needs to be at least catch up with these countries to bolster its economy and finally be able to stand on its own feet. We need to see what will happen in the weeks that lie ahead. And if any true solution can be found to the many problems of the nation as it goes into its latest polling exercise. -- Courtesy TheNews

Tessori congratulates admin, LEAs for holding peaceful elections

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, has congratulated the local administration and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) for playing their effective role in holding peaceful elections 2024.

The Governor monitored the election process throughout the day, and was also in touch with the LEAs and administration, said a spokesperson of the Governor's house here on Thursday. He lauded the role of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), for conducting the elections in a peaceful environment. He said the media had also played vital role for excellent coverage of the polling process.

He said that the overall peaceful conduct of the elections in the province is the result of joint efforts of all the stakeholders. He said the voters also deserve appreciation who exercised their right to vote for their favourite candidates.

He hoped that next elected government would resolve the problems of the masses of this country.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali casting his vote during General Election 2024.

Election Commissioner visits polling stations to assess electoral process

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Election Commissioner Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shamsad Khan on Thursday conducted a comprehensive visit to various polling stations in Peshawar to assess the electoral process.

Accompanied by SSP Operation Kashif Abbasi, Regional Election Commissioner Peshawar Saeed Ahmed Khan, and Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Afaq Wazir.

Shamsad Khan engaged in discussions with polling staff in Fagirabad and Gul Bahar, emphasizing their crucial responsibilities.

Shamsad Khan interacted with present polling agents, discussing electoral procedures, and commended them for their courteous involvement in the election process. He directed them to fulfil their duties with utmost responsibility.

The Election Commissioner also engaged in a positive conversation with media representatives, highlighting the importance of democratic participation at polling stations for the country's stability and progress. Expressing satisfaction with the election arrangements, he appealed to the public to exercise their voting rights responsibly, contributing to the consolidation of democratic practices and the nation's prosperity.

Pervez Khattak, Mian Iftikhar cast vote at Manki Sharif, Pabbi

NEWSHERA (APP): Polling of votes peacefully continued in Nowshera, Charsadda, and Mardan amid long queues of voters in polling stations in all urban and rural areas of these districts.

Long lines of voters were seen at polling stations setup at Government Primary School Dheri Ishaq, Mohib Banda, Amankot, and Azakhel Payan in NA 34 Nowshera-II, where tough electoral battles are expected among PPP, PTI Parliamentarians, JUIF, and ANP candidates.

Police and security officials were deployed at sensitive and highly sensitive polling stations in NA 34 Nowshera-I and NA 33 Nowshera II.

Former KP Information Minister and ANP Central General Secretary, Mian Iftikhar Hussain, who was contesting the election on PK 89 Nowshera, cast his vote in his native town, Pabbi.

Similarly, PTI Parliamentarians Chairman Pervez Khattak polled his vote at polling station Manki Sharif in NA 33 Nowshera-I.

Pervez Khattak is contesting the election on NA 33 Nowshera-I.



CHARSADA: Provincial President ANP and Candidate of NA-25 Aimal Walli Khan casting his vote.

Candidatures in Bajaur District succeeded in mobilizing voters

BAJAUR (APP): There were long queues of the general public including women voters with great enthusiasm witnessed among them for exercising their right of vote for their like-minded candidate contesting election on three Provincial Assembly Seats including PK-19, PK-20 and PK-21 respectively without any fear.

President Bajaur Press Club, Hasban Ullah, has also setup a room for the out-stationed journalists, who are here covering the election besides providing them traditional Green Tea (Kahwa) and Tea. "We have made arrangement for

the lunch as well, Hasban Ullah, the President of Bajaur Press Club told APP. He said that there is great enthusiasm despite a tragic incident of the assassination of one of the candidates as a result of which the election on the only NA-8 seat from Bajaur and PK-22 postponed by the Election Commission of Pakistan, otherwise the people are taking great interest in exercising the right of vote in the General Election 2024. Surprisingly, there were long queues of the women voters as well right from the morning and those sensed the importance of the women voters.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar witnesses the polling process at Command and Control Center during his visit at Civic Center building in Karachi on Thursday, February 8, 2024. Voters across the country have flocked to their respective polling stations to cast ballots and elect their favorite leaders amid cold weather and the suspension of mobile phone services.

CM Punjab monitors election arrangements

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday paid a visit to the Central Control Room established by the home department at the Civil Secretariat to review and monitor arrangements made for holding the general elections across the province. The CM went to the central control room and conducted a detailed review of the monitoring arrangements.

The home secretary gave a briefing to the CM about arrangements being undertaken to ensure holding of general elections in a peaceful environment besides the monitoring system. Mohsin Naqvi stated that a crucial phase of holding general elections had been completed in a peaceful and nice manner. The police, administration and law enforcement institutions jointly maintained law and order environment during the general elections.

The CM acknowledged that excellent arrangements had been made for holding the general elections in every city of Punjab, including Lahore.

IG Police Dr Usman Anwar, CCPO Lahore and officials concerned were also present.

Meanwhile, Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the upgraded second and third floors, new lab and diagnostic center at the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC), completed within a span of just 25 days.

The CM appreciated secretary communication and works, health & commissioner Lahore for their hard work.

The roadside lab facility would supplement PIC's quotidian revenue; he observed and ordered to provide amenities like refrigerators, chairs and TVs in private rooms during his inspection of different floors.

Expressing his satisfaction, the CM emphasized that the inauguration of the diagnostic center, accomplished in an unprecedented time frame of two to three weeks, underscores the collective determination and collaboration of all stakeholders.

Provincial Minister Javed Akram, the IGP, CCPO and others were also present.

Earlier, Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi performed the virtual groundbreaking for 40 state-of-the-art police stations in Sabzar, simultaneously commencing construction at the Shirakot police station site with the use of an excavator.

CM KP inspects Election Control Room in Home Department

PESHAWAR (APP): Adequate electoral equipment and staff have been timely deployed to every station, including those in the snow-covered. All routes in these areas are reported to be accessible at present. The election process is smoothly progressing throughout the province, with the Election Commission coordinating with administrative and security authorities. The provincial government has introduced new software for online monitoring of administrative and security matters related to the electoral process.

This software facilitates real-time information gathering from all polling stations, ensuring efficient communication even in the event of internet service disruptions. It contains comprehensive data on polling stations and election staff. To ensure continuous communication, alternative arrangements, including telephone and mobile phone access, have been made with all polling stations. The control room will remain operational without any interruptions until the receipt of the last ballot box. Expressing satisfaction with the election arrangements, the Caretaker Chief Minister affirmed confidence in the coordination efforts and instructed relevant authorities to stay alert.

Provincial Minister Aamer Abdullah, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Choudhry, Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Gandapur, and Additional Chief Secretary Home, were present during the briefing. They were briefed that polling is underway at all 15,607 polling stations throughout the province.



LAHORE: Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab Ejaz Anwar Chohan and Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa inspecting the Polling during his visit to Polling Station.

Polling process in Hazara Division concludes peacefully

ABBOTTABAD (APP): To ensure transparency and oversight, foreign observers, Commissioner Hazara Division Syed Zaheer-ul-Islam, and Deputy Commissioners from all districts visited polling stations to assess the voting process. The law enforcement agencies, particularly the police department, implemented stringent security measures, contributing to the maintenance of peace and order at the polling stations. In addition to the presence of over 3,000 policemen in Abbottabad and more than 2,400 in Haripur, security duties were effectively carried out by the Pakistan Army and FC.

The general elections process in Hazara Division on Thursday concluded peacefully without any incident. The election commenced at 8:00 AM, and polling stations across the eight districts of Hazara remained operational until 5:00 PM, ensuring a smooth electoral process.

A total of 2,862 polling stations were established throughout the division where 3,430,456 male and female voters exercised their right to vote. No untoward incidents were reported from any polling station, indicating a peaceful atmosphere conducive to democratic participation.



KARACHI: Members of polling staff start counting the votes after the polls closed for parliamentary elections, in the Provincial Capital.

Sindh home minister, IGP take measures for security on polling day

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Home Minister Brigadier retired Haris Nawaz, accompanied by Inspector General of Police Riffat Mukhtar Raja, conducted a thorough inspection of the Command and Control Center at Civic Center and the polling station at DJ College and expressed satisfaction over the measures taken for holding polling process in a peaceful environment.

Their visit focused on assessing the security arrangements and monitoring the polling, during which they engaged with both voters and presiding officers to inquire about the proceedings.

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation between voters, supporters, and law enforcement agencies for ensuring peaceful polling, the Sindh Home Minister reiterated the caretaker government's commitment to prioritize a conducive electoral environment.

Highlighting the need for vigilant surveillance, particularly around the perimeters of polling stations, Haris Nawaz asked the police to promptly respond to any suspicious activities or movements. Furthermore, he underscored the significance of providing special assistance to senior citizens and women visiting polling stations today (Thursday).

IGP Sindh Riffat Mukhtar Raja, speaking on the occasion, lauded the readiness and alertness of all police officers and personnel, with additional reserves on standby. He said that Sindh Police utilised all available resources and manpower to uphold security during the electoral process.



KARACHI: Governor Kamran Khan Tessori talking to media after casting his vote at a polling station during General Elections 2024.

MQM-P will win 18 NA and 40 SA seats: Farooq

KARACHI (INP): MQM-Pakistan senior leader Dr Farooq Sattar has claimed that general elections will prove a public referendum for his party as Mutahidda will take back its seats which were gifted to others in 2018.

Talking to media after casting his vote in NA-241 in Karachi on Thursday, the MQM-Pakistan leader said time will tell who benefitted from mobile and internet disruptions in general election.

He urged Election Commission of Pakistan to restore the internet and mobile services. Farooq Sattar claimed that MQM-P will win 18NA and 40 provincial Assembly's seats. MQM-P Dr Farooq Sattar, PTI-backed Khuram Sher Zaman, PPP Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Jamaat-e-Islami's Naveed Ali Baig, TLP Muhammad Waseem, PML-N Rozina, Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party's (IPP) Jairam Das, Grand Democratic Alliance's (GDA) Shaheena, Awami National Party's (ANP) Owais Khan and others are contesting from NA 241 constituency.

Journalists visit Election City

LAHORE (APP): The journalists on Thursday visited the Election City established by the Election Commission where they were briefed about the election results, received.

The journalists were briefed by Head of Political Finance Wing Masood Sherwani and DGIT Khizr Aziz. DGIT Khizr Aziz said that the results of ROs would be received here in Election City, adding our system does not depend on internet.

DGIT Khizr Aziz further said that one National Assembly and three Provincial Assembly elections had been postponed due to the death of candidates. A media wall has also been installed in the Election City.

Project Director EMS Colonel (retd) Muhammad Saad Ali said that after the completion of data entry Form-47, it will have to be sent to ECP here, adding Form 47 will be received through e-mail, fax.

He said live results could be seen from here. All Returning Officers (ROs) are provided with DSL connections.



RAWALPINDI: A large number of women stands in a queue wait their turn to cast their vote outside a polling station during Pakistan's national elections in the city. Millions of Pakistanis began voting February 8 in an election marred by allegations of poll rigging, with the country's most popular politician in jail and a military-favoured candidate tipped to win.

Foolproof security made by police in city

LAHORE (APP): Police ensured foolproof security in the provincial metropolis during the general elections 2024 on Thursday. In this regard, 18 SPs, 44 SDPOs, 84 SHOs, 83 in charge investigations, 166 upper subordinates, over 18,000 constables and more than 1800 lady police constables performed their election-related duties.

Meanwhile, police provided security to 4,357 polling stations and 1,685 polling buildings with the deployment of over 12,000 policemen. Additionally, 320 polling buildings under the A-category were secured with 640 pickets, consisting of more than 3,000 policemen. Similarly, security was ensured on 195 entry and exit routes in the city.

Overall, more than 24,000 police officials had completed their election duties. Capital City Police Officer Bilal Siddique Kamyana stated that the police had provided comprehensive security for the peaceful conduct of the elections. High alerts were maintained in all polling stations across the city on polling day; he said and added that three-tier security barriers were established for voters' security.

Nqvi casts vote at Riwaz Garden

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi cast his vote at the Riwaz Garden polling station here on Thursday.

The CM cast his ballot in the polling station no. 42 of GPS Junior Model School Riwaz Garden. He stood in the queue and waited for his turn. The CM on his turn took ballot papers from the polling officer and by putting a stamp on the electoral symbol put the ballot papers in the box.

Polling process halted on clash between workers of PTI, PML-N

LAHORE (Online): Polling process was halted for some time as a result of clash between workers of two political parties outside polling station located in government poly technical College Railway road.

The polling resumed following the interference by police. It has been told that the workers involved in clash hailed from PLM-N and PTI. They chanted slogans against leadership of each other.

Staff of PRC, Rescue 1122 deployed for emergency

BAJAUR (APP): Pakistan Red Crescent and Rescue 1122 staff have been deployed as emergency response teams in District Bajaur to deal with any emergency situation. Red Crescent response teams including first aiders, ambulance services and blood donation volunteers are available all the teams have been instructed to stay near the sensitive polling station during the polling time. When asked to comment on the present situation, the officials said that they have taken all precautionary measures to deal with any emergency.

Kashmir a 'flashpoint' between nuclear-armed India, Pakistan: Masood

NEW YORK (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, has called Kashmir a "flashpoint" in tensions between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan, saying the two countries should not only discuss their decades-old dispute but also negotiate nuclear confidence-building measures.

"I think that realistically speaking, we should have talks not only on the future of Jammu and Kashmir and the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, in accordance with international law and the U.N. Security Council, but we should also have nuclear confidence-building talks, so that we establish reliable communication channels," he told NEWSWEEK, a weekly American weekly magazine. "Kashmir is a flashpoint," Pakistani envoy said. "And India thinks that it has taken care of it. But Kashmiris don't think that, and Pakistanis don't think that."

Newsweek correspondent Tom O'Connor, who interviewed the ambassador amid the Israeli war on Gaza, wrote that the presence of weapons of mass destruction on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) adds another dimension to the conflict, and cited Masood Khan arguing that it needed to be addressed by Islamabad and New Delhi to avoid a major crisis, intended or otherwise. "India and Pakistan should have some sense of where we are, what our capabilities are, what our intentions are, as a matter of fact, and so that our entire approach to the region is not accident-prone," he added. "And as two responsible nuclear weapons states, we must resolve outstanding disputes in Kashmir as well." With India-Pakistan ties remaining virtually frozen, Newsweek pointed out that Pakistani officials have often lamented what they view as a lack of international attention being paid to the issue of Kashmir, where New Delhi carried out a mass crackdown since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi revoked Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status in August 2019.

"We would say that attention from Kashmir is moving away because of

Ukraine or the preoccupation of the Western world with China as a competitor, as a challenger to the existing order, and so on," Masood Khan said.

"Now, in addition to Ukraine and the Indo-Pacific politics, you have the Middle East." "So, Kashmir is no more on the radar screen of the international community, and yet the oppression continues there," he added. "So, I've always said this is a blind spot, and this is very dangerous, this is very perilous for the international community because the Kashmiris' freedoms are as sacrosanct as the freedoms of any people in any part of the world." Pakistani officials have also often drawn connections between the Kashmir dispute and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, owing to some common historical roots, it was pointed out.

Masood Khan too referenced these commonalities, but also the "dissimilarity" as well, noting particularly how Palestinians, despite their ongoing struggle for self-determination, have garnered global support and even observer status at the United Nations.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi being marked his thumb before issuing ballot paper in polling station during General Election-2024.

Solangi says: Enthusiastic turn out testament to strengthening democracy in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that enthusiastic turn out in the general elections was not only a testament to the strengthening democracy in the country but also marked a significant milestone in its history.

Congratulating the entire nation on successful completion of polling process of the general elections 2024, he said in a policy statement on elections that today the nation had witnessed another historic

event in the democratic journey. "People across Pakistan participated in the process in large numbers demonstrating their commitment to democracy, their national responsibility and belief in the power of vote", he maintained.

"The smooth conduct of the elections is attributed to the collective efforts of multiple stakeholders and it is my privilege to extend my gratitude to all those who played a pivotal role in this democratic exercise", he added.

He specially thanked the international media, ob-

Commonwealth observers express satisfaction over polling process in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Commonwealth observers expressed satisfaction with the transparency of the polling process in Pakistan on Thursday.

Ahead of the elections, various observers, journalists, and stakeholders invited by the Election Commission of Pakistan from abroad have begun assessing the voting situation.

A 25-member Commonwealth Observers Group visited various polling stations in Islamabad, including those in constituency NA-47.

Speaking to the media, the head of the Commonwealth observer group said that they are satisfied with the polling process for the general elections. In response to a question, the head of the delegation, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, said that elections and voting processes have historically



LAHORE: Park Army soldiers stand alert outside a polling station during the country's parliamentary elections, in the Provincial Capital.

Things are heading towards coalition govt: Speaker NA

GUJJARKHAN (Online): Speaker National Assembly (NA) Raja Pervez Ashraf has said things are heading towards coalition government.

"It is duty of Election Commission (EC) to ally reservations of political parties, he said this while talking to media men here Thursday after casting his vote.

He said I pray elected government addresses the problems facing the country.

He went on to say it is must election is held in fair, transparent, impartial and peaceful manner.

Casting their votes to their favorite candidate by people is democracy, he stated.

He held the government which comes into being as a result of fair and transparent election is strong.

Reports are coming about stopping females of my constituency from casting votes, he indicated. The names of women from my constituency are not being found in voters lists held by election staff.

The real situation will become clear following announcement of election result. Things are heading towards coalition government, he remarked.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki and Commander 12 Corps Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan enquiring about the health of Killa Saifullah and Pishin blast victim during their visit to CMH.

China wishes smooth, stable, safe elections in Pak: Spokesperson

BEIJING (APP): A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Thursday said that China, as an all-weather strategic cooperative partner and iron friend, wished Pakistan a smooth, stable and safe elections being held across the country. "As an all-weather strategic cooperative partner and iron friend, China wishes Pakistan a smooth, stable and safe election," Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing in response to a question about incident of violence on the eve of the election in Pakistan.

Wang Wenbin said that Chinese side was deeply shocked by the attacks in Pakistan and strongly con-

PM visits various polling stations of twin cities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Thursday visited various polling stations for the general elections 2024, in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

During his visit, he reviewed the electoral process and facilities provided to the voters. The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the law and order situation in the electoral process and the facilities provided to the voters.

Bilawal casts his vote in Nodero

LARKANA (APP): Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has cast his vote in polling station No. 157 of Government Boys Primary School No. 3 of Nodero, Municipal Committee of Rato Dero Tehsil of District Larkana. While, PPP Sindh president, Senator and candidate PS 13 Nisar Ahmed Khuro.

PEMRA issues show cause notices to 4 TV news channels

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) on Thursday issues show cause notices to four electronic media news channels for violation of the election code of conduct.

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had complained that Geo News, ARY News, GNN and Dawn News had violated ECP code of conduct and PEMRA law by conducting exclusive interviews of leaders of various political parties.

PEMRA has given the management of the news channels seven days to file a reply in personal hearing after which further action would be taken.

Domki & Lt. Gen Rahat inquire about health of injured of blasts

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki along with Corps Commander, Lt. General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan visited the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Quetta cantonment on Thursday.

The Chief Minister and Corps Commander inquired about the health of those injured in separate blasts occurred in Khanozai area of Pishin and Killa Saifullah districts.

They prayed for early recovery of all the injured persons and expressed best wishes for them.

ECP chief commends successful election

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja expressed his gratitude and congratulations to the nation for the successful conduct of the election.

In a special message, he thanked the people of Pakistan for fulfilling their constitutional and national responsibility, state news channel PTV reported.

Sultan Raja extended his appreciation to all stakeholders involved in the electoral process, including federal and provincial caretaker governments, political parties, security agencies, police, civil administration, Pakistan Army.



QUETTA: Voters are in queue waiting to cast their votes at a polling station during General Election 2024.

Pak, Russia express satisfaction on similarities of views on global strategic stability, regional security

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia have expressed satisfaction on the similarity of views on range of issues of global strategic stability, regional security including matters related to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

The two sides, during the 14th meeting of the Pakistan-Russia Consultative Group on Strategic Stability held in Moscow on Wednesday expressed readiness to continue close coordination at relevant international platforms.

Moreover, the two sides also emphasized importance of regular meetings of the Consultative Group, a joint statement issued by the spokesperson of foreign office said on Thursday.

The 14th round of Pakistan-Russia Consultative Group on Strategic Stability was held under the chairmanship of Additional Foreign Secretary (Arms Control and Disarmament) Mohammad Kamran Akhtar and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs S.A. Ryabkov.

The parties had an in-depth exchange of views on international security and regional stability challenges, as well as on various aspects of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. The two sides discussed issues related to the agenda of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament, the IAEA and the OPCW.

Tareen hopes strong government to emerge after general election

MULTAN (APP): Chairman Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Jahangir Khan Tareen, urging people to reach out to polling stations to cast their votes, said he hoped that a strong elected government should take over in the wake of general election.

He was talking to the media after casting his vote at a polling station in his

Daniyal Aziz arrested, wife alleges 'foul play'

SHAKARGARH (INP): Former Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Daniyal Aziz was arrested from Shakargarh on Thursday.

The police arrested Daniyal Aziz from Sanjari Morre area of the city. Police ordered him to sit with police in the patrol vehicle and shifted him to an unknown place.

Daniyal Aziz's wife alleged that he was forcibly taken away by authorities. She said Aziz was stopped at the police gate where he was confronted by law enforcement officials.

His wife questioned the reasons behind the arrest. She claimed that not only was Aziz arrested, but he was also subjected to torture by the police.

PTI demands immediate restoration of internet, mobile services

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Spokesperson has strongly condemned the suspension of internet and mobile services throughout the country on polls day, reflecting a small measure of fear that the power-wielders and their side kicks in the government are suffering from.

PTI Spokesperson, in his strongly-worded statement, blasted the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for its inability and failure to ensure transparency and credibility of the elections.

He demanded that mobile phone and internet services should be restored immediately across the country and people should be allowed to exercise their constitutional and fundamental right to vote, as the ECP's 8300 SMS service also became unavailable due to the suspension of mobile services.

PTI Spokesperson continued that suspension of mobile phone and internet services on election day was part of the systematic conspiracy to deprive people of their constitutional right to vote by reducing voter turnout after sensing an overwhelming and historic turnout in general elections.



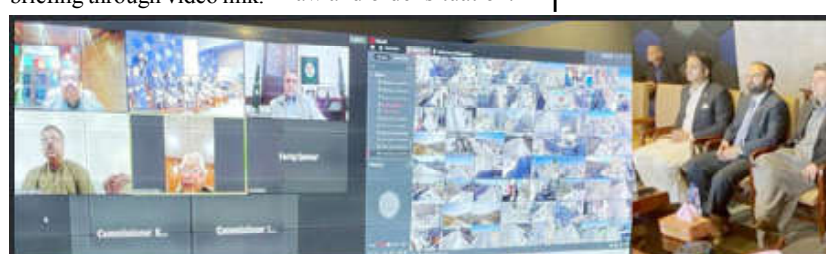
QUETTA: Security officials are standing high alert to avoid untoward incident as security has been tightened at a polling station during General Election 2024.

DC visits polling stations, expresses satisfaction over arrangements

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lieutenant @ Saad bin Asad expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made for polls during his visit of various polling stations in Quetta aimed to monitor the electoral process.

He said that strict security arrangements have been made in the city as contingents of police levies and FC personnel have been deployed at the polling stations to ensure the security.

The DC said that like the other areas of the country, the polling for general elections continued in a peaceful manner in the provincial capital of



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Home Minister Mir Zubair Jamali and Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan review the arrangements at Election Control Room.