



Political Parties Preparing for Electoral Alliances, Seat Adjustments

Introduction

This report reflects FAFEN observation of early campaigns of political parties across various districts in Pakistan. It has been compiled from data gathered by FAFEN's District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) in three districts of Sindh, six districts of Punjab, and one district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) between February 1 and February 9, 2013. FAFEN observers are tasked to monitor and record political alliances, early campaigning, and other significant political developments that could have an effect on the upcoming general elections.

1. Province-wise and Party-wise Political Developments

In Punjab, one significant development was a seat adjustment between Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q) in Sialkot. In Narowal, a representative of the Khan *Biradari* joined Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), and in Gujranwala, PPPP's district president also joined PTI.

In Gujrat, PPPP and PML-Q jointly nominated a PML-Q candidate to contest the elections from NA-105. PPPP's Gujranwala district president joined PTI, following a 20-year association with PPPP.

PTI held intra-party elections in Narowal, Gujranwala, Okara and Hafizabad (The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced that parties not holding intra-party elections will not be allowed to contest the general elections).

In Sindh, two PML-Q candidates joined PPPP in Badin, and a representative of the Hindu community in Badin joined Pakistan Muslim League-Functional (PML-F). Hindus constitute almost 19% of the total population in this district.

In Larkana, Jeay Sindh Inqilaabi Mahaaz (JSIM) held a meeting of its central body to finalize the names of contesting candidates for the first time in this district. Also in Larkana, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-F (JUI-F) and Citizen Alliance entered an alliance to compete against a PPPP candidate.

In Matiari, some former stalwarts of PPPP, Awami National Party (ANP), Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party, Sindh United Party and other groups have agreed to field their candidates jointly for one National Assembly and two Provincial Assembly seats in the district under an alliance called Awami Itehad.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Awami National Party (ANP) district office reportedly distributed cheques from the Chief Minister's Fund for the construction of mosques in Charsadda.

2. Province-wise and Party-wise Early Campaigning

FAFEN DLTOs reported that early campaigning has begun in ten districts of three provinces, including six districts in Punjab, three in Sindh and one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. PPPP and PML-N held election campaigns in Sialkot (Punjab), and PPPP and PML-F campaigned in Badin (Sindh). PPPP and the Awami Ittehad Alliance were reportedly campaigning in Matiari (Sindh). PTI carried out campaign activities in Narowal, Gujranwala, Okara and Hafizabad (Punjab). PML-Q and JUI-F campaigned in Gujrat (Punjab) and Larkana (Sindh), respectively.

Province-wise, Party-wise Early Campaigning

Province	District	Party Name
Punjab	Sialkot	PPPP
		PML-N
	Narowal	PTI
	Gujranwala	
	Okara	
	Hafizabad	PML-Q
Gujrat		
Sindh	Matiari	PPP
		Awami Ittehad Alliance
	Badin	PPPP
		PML-F
	Larkana	JUI-F
KP	Charsadda	ANP

About FAFEN

The Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), established in 2006, is a coalition of 42 leading civil society organizations working to strengthen all forms of democratic accountabilities in Pakistan. Governed by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA), FAFEN also implements robust programs in-between elections related to monitoring parliamentary affairs, connecting constituents to their elected representatives, monitoring the performance of public and elected institutions and advocating electoral and democratic reforms.

FAFEN Election Program

FAFEN is implementing a long-term election observation program nationwide, including both pre- and post-electoral processes. FAFEN is deploying 130 District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) across the country to monitor all phases of elections. FAFEN's Constituency Long-Term Observers (CLTOs) will observe the political campaigns in all National Assembly constituencies during the two months prior to Election Day. In addition, FAFEN will deploy more than 43,000 trained, non-partisan citizens to monitor polling stations across the country on Election Day.

All FAFEN observers adhere to the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) Code of Conduct for National Observers as well as the Global Principles for Non-Partisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations (April 2012). FAFEN's 10-month observation process, beginning February 1, 2013, will help keep all election stakeholders informed on issues relevant to fairness and transparency at every stage of the election process.

FAFEN Election Observation Methodology

FAFEN's election observation activities are based on the Constitution and laws of Pakistan, global best practice standards for elections, as well as the legal obligations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Pakistan in 2010. FAFEN LTOs use standardized checklists to report electronically to the FAFEN Election Observation Secretariat in Islamabad regularly. FAFEN compiles data and information from around the country to issue regular thematic updates for the consideration of voters and election stakeholders.

FAFEN LTOs monitor and report on the activities of District Election Commissioner (DEC) offices, preparations of elections such as appointment and training of election officials, the process of candidate nominations, and compliance with the ECP's Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates (after the announcement of election schedule). In addition, LTOs observe and report on compliance of the executive branch with legal responsibilities and ECP regulations, including restrictions on transfers of civil service personnel and initiation of new development schemes. LTOs also monitor political and electoral intimidation and violence, the actions of the police and other security forces, and the overall political environment during the pre-election period.