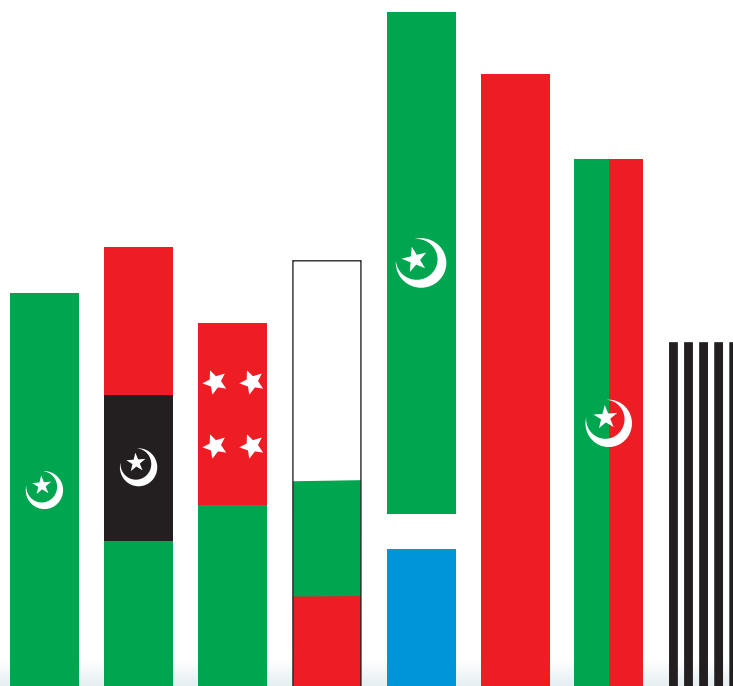


MONITOR

Political Parties' Internal Democracy

August 2015



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This monitor is meant to identify key developments during the month on Internal Democracy of Political Parties in Pakistan. In this issue:



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) – Justice Wajihuddin's Charter of Demands

After his suspension from the party by the Chairman PTI, Justice (r) Wajihuddin held a press conference in Lahore on August 14, 2015 in which he presented his seven demands to the party leadership.¹ He also said that he would travel to different districts across the country to meet party workers and mobilise them to pressure the leadership for reforms. Justice (r) Wajih's demands included:



- 1) Formation of a task force to implement orders of PTI Election Tribunal
- 2) Formation of a committee to constitute an independent accountability commission
- 3) All central and provincial office-bearers of the party be de-notified and remain ineligible for next intra-party elections
- 4) An interim set up be announced in consultation with representatives at the central and provincial levels
- 5) PTI Election Commission be empowered and made resourceful to announce a fresh intra-party schedule
- 6) Suspension of membership of office-bearers against whom allegations of corruption, misuse of authority and manipulation of electoral and ticket allocation process have been made
- 7) Formation of a National Reconciliation Commission for redressing the side-lined ideological workers of the party

These demands have not received any response from PTI leadership, however, on August 18, 2015, PTI website posted 10 questions for Justice (r) Wajihuddin to answer regarding the PTI Election Tribunal's findings and his own sincerity towards the party. These questions were soon after removed from the website and all social media networks. Nevertheless, Justice (r) Wajihuddin did respond to these allegations one by one.² A threatening letter to him followed that circulated on the social media by a group calling themselves 'Insaaf Tigers' stating that whoever would take a stand against Imran Khan should prepare for its consequences.³ The letter was strongly condemned by the party leadership and it was also announced that the Chairman had ordered for a committee to be formed to investigate this matter and find the people behind the threats.⁴

Although factions within a party are not an unheard phenomenon in mature democracies and these factions compete for influence within the party through democratic means, the open rebellion against the party leadership by Justice (R) Wajihuddin is not something that is viewed favourably even in developed democracies. Justice Wajih's campaign is not limited to the acceptance of demand for fresh and fair election within the party; at times it looks as if he is projecting himself as an alternative leadership of the party.

1. Wajih's seven-point charter of demands, Dawn, Aug 15, 2015, as accessed on Aug 25, 2015 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200543>
2. Wajihuddin responds to allegations, The News, Aug 24, 2015 as accessed on Aug 25, 2015 at <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-335934-Wajihuddin-responds-to-allegations>
3. Insaaf Tigers write threatening letter to Justice Wajih, Abb Takk TV, Aug 24, 2015, as accessed on Aug, 25, 2015 at <http://abttakk.tv/en/insaaf-tigers-write-threatening-letter-to-justice-r-wajih230815/>
4. Clueless: PTI condemns threats to Wajihuddin, Express Tribune, Aug 25, 2015 as accessed on Aug 25, 2015 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/944122/clueless-pti-condemns-threats-to-wajihuddin/>



Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) - Reorganisation of the party in Punjab and Announcement of Intra-party elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



According to media reports, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has taken command over the party and has been focusing all his attention on the reorganisation and revival of the party in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa⁵. He held meetings in Islamabad with party office bearers who represented the city and district chapters of Faisalabad. They were also attended by Ms. Faryal Talpur, MNA, former Prime Ministers Yousaf Raza Gillani and Raja Pervez Ashraf, Punjab President Mian Manzoor Watto, Vice President PPP Senator Sherry Rehman, Information Secretary Qamar Zaman Kaira, General Secretary PPP Punjab Tanveer Kaira, media advisor to Chairman PPP, ex-MNAs Nadeem Afzal Chan, Mehrin Anwar Raja and Fouzia Habib. The media cell of the party has reported that a host of issues revolving around party organizational matters, current political situation and the challenges facing the Party had been discussed.

For similar reasons, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also met the PPP leaders of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Zardari house Islamabad. Presided over by the Chairman, those attending the meeting included Ms Faryal Talpur, Raja Pervez Ashraf, senator Khanzada Khan president PPP KPK, senator Sherry Rehman Vice President PPP, Senator Rubina Khalid, ex Provincial Presidents Zahir Ali Shah and Rahimdad Khan, Najmuddin Khan, Shuja Khan, Humayun Khan, Noor Alam Afridi, Faisal Kundi, Muhammad Ali Shah MPA, Akhuzada Chittan President PPP FATA, Aurangzeb Burki and Jamil Soomro media advisor chairman PPP.⁶

It was also announced by the Chairman that intra party elections would be held in four districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and organizing committees for holding these elections will be set up on the basis of broad based consultations. Members of these committees will not be allowed to contest election to any party office. The KPK meeting was attended by Barrister Masood Kausar, Lal Khan, Abdul Akbar Khan, Tariq Khattak, Azam Afridi, Yawar Naseer, Tahir Abbas, Mian Muzaffar Shah besides others. Ms Faryal Talpur, Sherry Rehman and Jameel Soomoro. Also attended the meeting.⁷ A continuous series of meetings in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is showing that the Chairman PPP's focus has expanded beyond Sindh but the meetings focused largely on party organisational matters where he is trying to play a more proactive role in its reorganisation and restoration as a national party.



Awami National Party (ANP) – Intra-party elections in Peshawar

Awami National Party conducted its intra-party elections at provincial level in Mardan on August 11, 2015 wherein Mr. Sardar Hussain Babak was elected unopposed as Provincial General Secretary, Mr. Haroon Bilour was elected Provincial Information Secretary, Mr. Pervez Khan was elected as Provincial Joint Secretary for Peshawar Zone and Mr. Nisar Khan as Joint Secretary for Malakand Zone.⁸



5. Bilawal due in capital today, Dawn, Aug 24, 2015, as accessed on Aug 24, 2015 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202441/bilawal-due-in-capital-today>
6. Chairman PPP meets KPK party leaders, Media Cell PPP, Aug 25, 2015, as accessed on Aug 25, 2015 at <https://mediacellppp.wordpress.com/2015/08/25/chairman-ppp-meets-kpk-party-leaders/>
7. Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari calls for FATA reforms, announces intra party elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Media Cell PPP, Aug 29, 2015, as accessed on Aug 29, 2015 at <https://mediacellppp.wordpress.com/2015/08/29/chairman-ppp-bilawal-bhutto-zardari-calls-for-fata-reforms-announces-intra-party-elections-in-khyberpakhtunkhwa/>
8. ANP elects office-bearers, The News, Aug 12, 2015, as accessed on Aug 12, 2015 at <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-333784-ANP-elects-office-bearers>

The intra-party elections took place at a meeting of the party's Provincial Council that was chaired by ANP Chief Asfandiyar Wali Khan.



Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Q) - Announces reorganisation

In a statement issued by Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) President and former Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, said that party's reorganization is due in the coming month (September, 2015) and internal elections will be held accordingly, as reported by media sources.^{9 10}

Intra-party elections of the PML are long overdue wherein under its own constitution, elections are supposed to take place every 3 years. The last intra-party polls in the centre took place in 2009 in which Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain was re-elected unopposed as President of the party and Mr. Mushahid Hussain

Sayed as the Secretary General.¹¹ However, the party's Punjab chapter did hold elections in February 2013 in which Chaudhry Pervez Elahi was elected Provincial President of the party and Chaudhry Zaheeruddin was appointed Provincial Secretary General.¹²



Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) – Party leader tenders resignation

When Maulana Fazlur Rehman visited the MQM headquarters as a representative of the Federal Government to persuade MQM legislators to withdraw their resignations in the Senate, National Assembly and Sindh Assembly, JUI-F's Secretary General in Sindh Maulana Rashid Mehmood Soomro tendered his resignation from the party as an expression of his reservation over JUI-F chief's decision.¹³ Media reports have said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman did speak to Maulana Soomro on the phone in which Maulana Fazal ur Rehman was advised on behalf of the party's Sindh chapter to not visit 'Nine Zero'. Maulana Fazlur Rehman's decision to go ahead with the visit led to Soomro's resignation, however, it has not been reported yet whether his resignation was accepted or rejected.



9. PML-Q to be reorganised: Shujaat, The Nation, Aug 25, 2015, as accessed on Aug 25, 2015 at <http://nation.com.pk/laure/25-Aug-2015/pml-q-to-be-reorganised-shujaat>
10. PML-Q leadership announces party's reorganisation, Daily Times, Aug 25, 2015, as accessed on Aug 25, 2015 at <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/punjab/25-Aug-2015/pml-q-leadership-announces-party-s-reorganisation>
11. Chaudhrys shying away from intra-party polls, Pakistan Today, February 11, 2013, as accessed on Aug 25, 2015 at <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/02/11/national/chaudhrys-shying-away-from-intra-party-polls-2/>
12. Chaudhry Pervez Elahi elected PML-Q Punjab President, Dawn, February 21, 2013, as accessed on Aug 25, 2015 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1201280/sindh-jui-f-general-secretary-quits-post-over-party-chiefs-90-visit>
13. Sindh JUI-F general secretary quits post over party chief's '90' visit, Dawn, Aug 19, 2015, as accessed on Aug 25, 2015 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1201280/sindh-jui-f-general-secretary-quits-post-over-party-chiefs-90-visit>