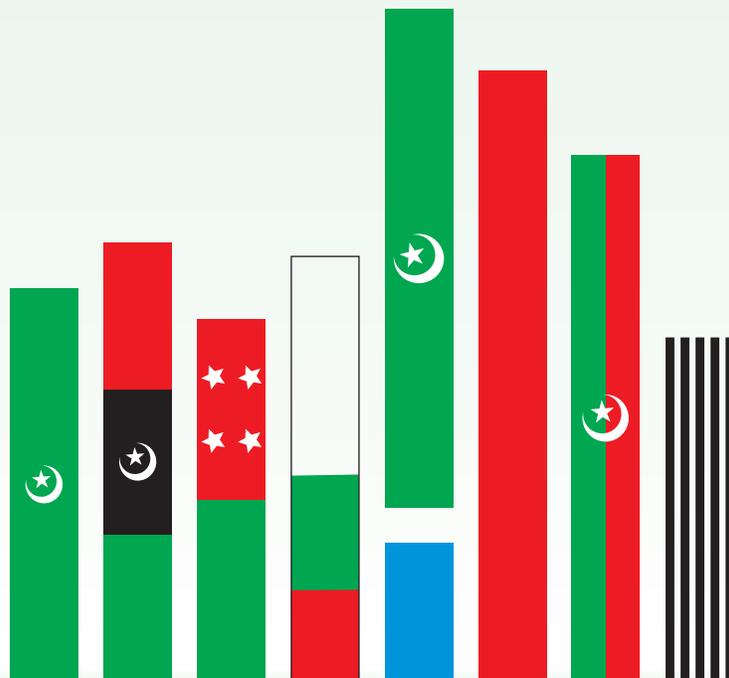


# MONITOR

## Political Parties' Internal Democracy

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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:*

**Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) – Party Conventions held in KP and Punjab**



**KP Ijtima being addressed by JI Chief Senator Siraj-ul-Haq in Naushehra**

A two-day convention of the KP chapter of the JI took place from October 22-23, 2016 in Azakhel, Naushehra.<sup>1</sup> As per the official notification by the Jamaat, a record number of male supporters were present along with approximately 50,000 women folk and children at the convention. The JI Chief, Senator Sirajul Haq, JI Secretary General, Mr. Liaqat Baloch, and JI KP Chief Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Khan addressed the convention.



**JI Punjab Ijtima in Lahore**

Similarly, a three-day convention of Jamaat *Arakeen* and Candidates for becoming a *Rukan* of the Punjab chapter of the JI took place in Lahore from October 28-30, 2016. JI Secretary General, Mr. Liaqat Baloch said that politics of the Punjab is usually in the hands of feudal lords and opportunists and he hoped that the JI convention would be a means of getting rid of these elements. It was also meant to send a message to the Kashmiris that the people of Pakistan and the Punjab were with them and would support them till they got their right of self-determination. On the second day of the convention, a Burhan Muzaffar Wani Shaheed Conference took place at which veteran Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Gilani and other Hurriyat leaders addressed the people via telephone. The JI Punjab Chief Mian Maqsood Ahmed was also present on the occasion but details regarding the attendance in numbers of the convention were not shared.

1. JI for reducing assemblies' terms to four year, JI official website, October 23, 2016, as accessed on November 10, 2016 at [http://jamaat.org/en/news\\_detail.php?article\\_id=829](http://jamaat.org/en/news_detail.php?article_id=829)

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## Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam – Fazl (JUI-F) – Party Youth Convention held in Nowshehra



JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman addressing his party's youth convention in Azakhel

As per media reports, on October 27, 2016, JUI-F's Youth Convention was held in Nowshehra which was addressed by the JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.<sup>2</sup> Besides the political statements that he made, no further details, such as the attendance of the convention, were shared.

## Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) – Meeting of the CWC takes place after almost 3 years



Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the party's CWC in Islamabad

On October 10, 2016, the Central Working Committee (CWC) of the PML-N met in Islamabad for the first time since the General Election in May 2013. The last time it met with the purpose of authorising tickets to party candidates.

The CWC constituted a five-member election commission under the leadership of Chaudhry Jaffar Iqbal, former Deputy Secretary General of the party, in order to conduct intra-party elections, which had already been overdue since July 2015. Other members of the election commission included Mr. Imdad Chandio, Mr. Ali Asghar

Jadoon, Mir Afzal and Ms. Najma Hamid. This procedure of constituting the election commission was reportedly carried out in accordance with the party constitution.

The CWC meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and attended by key Ministers of his administration, Central and Provincial office-bearers as well as Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Mr. Farooq Haider and Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Mr. Hafeezur Rehman. The date for the meeting of the National Council and intra-party election was also decided.

As per media reports, the Prime Minister Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, in his opening remarks, declared that only senior members from each province would be given the chance to speak.<sup>3</sup>

It should be highlighted here that constitutional requirement for the party's CWC is to meet every 3 months. According to the party constitution, the CWC is a nominated body by the President from among the members of the Pakistan Muslim League Council and its strength should not be more than 40 members. In 2015, it was reported that there were 76 members that constituted the CWC, out of which the party President nominated 55. The remaining were ex-officio members. It is not clear how many members attended the meeting. The full list of the participants' names was not shared in the party announcements.

## Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) – Announcement of intra-party election schedule

The first meeting of the PML-N Election Commission took place on October 13, 2016 in Islamabad.<sup>4</sup> The head of the five-member election commission Chaudhry Jaffar Iqbal made the announcement of the party election schedule. He reported to the media that candidates were required to submit nomination papers to the commission by 4:00 pm on October 17, 2016, and may withdraw anytime before the meeting of the National Council, which was to start at 11:00 am at the Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad.

On October 18, 2016, PML-N intra-party election of the central office-bearers for the next term took place at the PML-N Convention Centre in Islamabad. According to Article 73 of the party constitution, every office-bearer holds office for a term of three years and in Article 120, it is mentioned that the party will hold election after expiry of 4 years term from the date of previous election at Central/Provincial/Local levels. This ambiguity about the actual term of office has been highlighted earlier as well in [PILDAT's Report on Internal Democracy of Major Political Parties of Pakistan, 2015](#). However, as recent media reports are suggesting, it may be said that the term of elected office bearers in PML-N is 4 years.

2. PTI conspiring against democracy, DAWN, October 28, 2016, as accessed on November 10, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1292737/pti-conspiring-against-democracy-fazl>

3. PML-N office-bearers meet to fulfill legal formality, DAWN, October 11, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1289416/pml-n-office-bearers-meet-to-fulfil-legal-formality>

4. PML-N's intra-party election announced on Oct 18, DAWN, October 14, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1289891/pml-n-intra-party-elections-on-oct-18>

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The Election Commission received nomination papers on October 17, 2016, but it did not release the final list of candidates. Chaudhry Jaffar Iqbal reported to the media that the commission would display the list of candidates after scrutinising them and before the start of the National Council meeting. He also said that they had received only one nomination for many offices and most of the candidates were expected to be elected unopposed.

### Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) – Meeting of the Prime Minister's close confidants

On October 17, 2016, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif held a meeting with his close confidants (Some in the media termed it as his kitchen cabinet) in order to finalise names of new office-bearers who would be elected for the next four-year term.<sup>5</sup>

As per media reports, an official hand out was issued by the Prime Minister's Office, stating that the “political meeting” was presided over by the Prime Minister himself and was attended by the following persons:

1. Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif
2. Finance Minister Mr. Ishaq Dar
3. Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan
4. Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal
5. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif
6. Information Minister Senator Pervaiz Rashid
7. Minister of State for Telecommunication and Information Technology, Ms. Anusha Rehman Khan
8. Special Assistant to the PM Mr. Irfan Siddiqui and
9. Political Secretary to the PM Dr. Asif Kirmani



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif addresses National Council of party after being elected unopposed as President of PML-N

5. Kitchen Cabinet, DAWN, October 18, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1290672/old-faces-likely-to-retain-most-pml-n-offices>
6. PML-N rails for hindering progress, DAWN, October 19, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1290884/pm-rails-at-imran-for-hindering-progress>
7. Govt does not fear 'dugdugi' players, The News, October 19, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/158311-Govt-does-not-fear-dugdugi-players-Nawaz>

### Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) – Intra-party election held

On October 18, 2016, around 2,000 members of the PML-N National Council gathered together to elect the party's central office-bearers.<sup>6</sup>

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was re-elected unopposed as President of the party. Earlier before his election, Chaudhry Jaffar Iqbal had announced that Prince Abdul Qadir Baloch had submitted nomination papers to contest for the seat of Party President against Mr. Nawaz Sharif, but his papers were rejected, as he was not even a member of the party's National Council.

As expected, most of the old faces were re-elected as the party's central office-bearers. Leader of the House in the Senate Raja Zafar-ul-Haq was elected unopposed as Chairman of the PML-N.

Elected Senior Vice Presidents of the party include:

1. Mr. Sartaj Aziz
2. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan
3. Mr. Sar Anjam Khan
4. Sardar Yakub Khan Nasir
5. Mr. Imdad Chandio and
6. Mr. Changez Khan Marri

Senator Pervaiz Rashid was elected Secretary Finance while Senator Mushahidullah Khan was elected Secretary Information of the PML-N.<sup>7</sup>

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The office of Secretary General remains vacant due to lack of consensus for the key post. The office of the party's Secretary General has been vacant for almost a year now since Mr. Iqbal Zafar Jhagra was appointed Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in February 2016.

The National Council members authorised the Party President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to make nominations for the remaining offices.

### **Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) – Intra-party election of PML-N Punjab held**

On October 19, 2016, PML-N held its intra-party election for the Punjab chapter at the Expo Centre in Lahore.<sup>8</sup> The Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif was elected unopposed as PML-N Punjab president.<sup>9</sup> The last intra-party polls for Punjab took place on March 5, 2012, as reported by the PML-N Secretariat.

According to media reports, Punjab Parliamentary Secretary Rana Muhammad Arshad said that more than 1,000 council members of the party elected Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif as PML-N Punjab president and other office-bearers.

Party elections in the remaining provinces (Sindh, Balochistan and KP) have not been reported yet.

### **Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) – Tussle between MQM-London and MQM-Pakistan continues**

On October 2, 2015, Leader of MQM-P Dr. Farooq Sattar announced that his party had elevated him as the MQM's Convener.<sup>10</sup> In reaction to this declaration, the London office cancelled Dr. Sattar's basic membership of the party, on grounds of 'betraying' the MQM Founder Mr. Altaf Hussain. The London-based leadership also reiterated that all parliamentarians who had won seats in Mr. Altaf Hussain's party's name should immediately resign. However, MQM-P continued to ignore these notifications stating that they had already dissociated themselves, since August 23, 2016, from Mr. Altaf Hussain and the London office, which is why these announcements did not hold any value to them.

On October 5, 2016, a video message was released by MQM London office featuring Mr. Altaf Hussain who warned MQM lawmakers that their constituents would ensure their resignations if

they did not quit assemblies on his call.<sup>11</sup> Nevertheless, the lawmakers did not pay any heed to his call and none of them submitted their resignations.

On October 12, 2016, the MQM-London group announced, through a notification, the cancellation of membership of four senior leaders from MQM-Pakistan:

1. Mr. Amir Khan, Senior Deputy Convener
2. Ms. Kishwer Zehra, MNA
3. Khawaja Izharul Hasan, Opposition Leader in the Sindh Assembly and
4. Mr. Faisal Sabzwari, MPA

The notification stated that they were 'expelled from the party over serious violation of the party's code of conduct'.<sup>12</sup>

### **Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) – New pro-Altif chapter emerges**



Prof. Dr. Hassan Zafar Arif addressing a press conference in Karachi on behalf of the new MQM interim Coordination Committee

On October 14, 2016, the London-based Convener Mr. Nadeem Nusrat announced a 12-member interim Coordination Committee in Pakistan, out of which 3 members are based in London.<sup>13</sup>

Prof. Dr. Hassan Zafar Arif, one of the nine Pakistan-based members of the interim Coordination Committee, and a former faculty member of Karachi University said in a press conference at the Karachi Press Club that there was no entity like MQM-Pakistan or MQM-London but only one MQM, whose leader is Mr. Altaf

8. Shahbaz, Pervez set to win party slots, DAWN, October 19, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1290839/shahbaz-pervaiz-set-to-win-party-slots>

9. Shahbaz elected unopposed PML-N Punjab President, Jang, October 19, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <https://jang.com.pk/latest/197899-shahbaz-sharif-elected-as-pml-n-punjab-president>

10. Tug of war between MQM escalate, Express Tribune, October 3, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1192549/tug-war-mqm-london-office-escalates/>

11. Altaf releases video, DAWN, October 7, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1288514/altaf-releases-video-asks-mqm-legislators-to-resign>

12. London group expels four senior leaders, Express Tribune, October 12, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1198060/london-group-expels-four-senior-leaders-mqm-pakistan/>

13. New Altaf aides appear, DAWN, October 16, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1290273/new-altaf-aides-appear-seek-end-to-anti-mqm-operation>

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Hussain. Senior MQM leader Kanwar Khalid Younus and Advocate Sathi Ishaq also accompanied him along with other MQM supporters.

Prof. Dr. Hassan Zafar Arif claimed that they had received resignations from many lawmakers and would reveal them at an appropriate time.

Members of the interim Coordination Committee are:

1. Prof. Dr. Hassan Zafar Arif
2. Advocate Sathi Ishaq
3. Mr. Momin Khan Momin
4. Mr. Amjadullah Khan
5. Advocate Idrees Alvi
6. Kanwar Khalid Younus
7. Mr. Ismail Sitara
8. Mr. Akram Rajput
9. Mr. Ashraf Noor
10. Dr. Nadeem Ahsan
11. Mr. Wasay Jalil
12. Mr. Mustafa Azizabadi

On October 20, 2016, newly appointed Coordination Committee members along with many loyalists of Mr. Altaf Hussain took to the streets and went to Jinnah Ground to pay their respects at the *Yadgar-i-Shuhada* in Azizabad to offer *Fateha* and pay tribute to “martyrs” of the party.<sup>14</sup> Many MQM workers, including men, women and children, chanted slogans in favour of the party and Mr. Altaf Hussain.

### **Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) – MQM-P holds intra-party election**

On October 30, 2016, MQM-Pakistan dissolved its entire party structure declaring the previous intra-party polls null and void. New intra-party elections were organised on October 31, 2016 at the party's temporary headquarters in PIB Colony, Karachi. The Convener, Deputy convener, Members of Rabita Committee and the Central Executive Council elections took place.

The MQM Pakistan had been in the process of expelling members from the party on grounds of violating party discipline. As per media reports, these included Mr. Zafar Rajpoot, Mr. Rasheed Bhayya, Ms. Fauzia Amir, Ms. Rizwana Aslam, Mr. Abid Ghouri, Mr. Javed Khan, Mr. Zulfiqar Khanzada, Mr. Faheem Mughal, Mr. Farooq Khan, Mr. Fahim Raheel and Mr. Saeed Aziz.

Dr. Farooq Sattar was elected as MQM-Pakistan's party head and Convener with 11,930 votes while Mr. Amir Khan was elected as Senior Deputy Convener with 11,230.

According to media reports, a total number of 12,623 voters exercised their right to vote out of which 195 votes were rejected.<sup>15</sup>

Following were elected as Deputy Convenors:

1. Kunwar Naveed Jameel, who received 10,890 votes
2. Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, who received 10,845 votes
3. Mr. Shahid Pasha, who received 10,781 and
4. Senator Nasreen Jaleel, who received 10,795 votes

A total of 35 candidates were elected as Rabita Committee members.

Details regarding the newly elected Central Executive Council were not available.

### **Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) – Disciplinary Committee constituted**

According to media reports of October 5, 2016, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari constituted a disciplinary committee in the party and appointed former Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah as its head.<sup>16</sup> The disciplinary committee has been formed to investigate misconduct, violation of party decisions and indiscipline in the local government elections of Sindh.

Jam Mehtab Hussain Dehar and Mr. Ijaz Jakhrani are also appointed members of the committee.

The disciplinary committee has been formed in light of reports of violation of party discipline at the local bodies level in Sindh.

### **Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)- Joint meeting of the parliamentary parties of PPP**

On October 5, 2016,<sup>17</sup> PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari chaired a joint meeting of the parliamentary parties of the PPP of the Senate and National Assembly. The meeting took place in order to review party policy on the joint session of the parliament that was to take place the same day.

Leaders of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Aitzaz Ahsan and

14. Altaf loyalists take to streets, DAWN, October 21, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1291323/altafs-loyalists-take-to-streets-in-azizabad#comments>

15. Dr. Farooq Sattar elected convener, The Nation, November 2, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://nation.com.pk/karachi/02-Nov-2016/sattar-elected-as-mqm-pakistan-convener>

16. Qaim to head disciplinary committee of PPP, DAWN, October 5, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1288008/qaim-to-head-disciplinary-committee-of-ppp-bilawal>

17. Joint session of parliament on 5<sup>th</sup>, DAWN, October 2, 2016, as accessed on November 10, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1287468>

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National Assembly, Syed Khursheed Shah along with PPP parliamentarians of both the houses attended the meeting.<sup>18</sup>

### **Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)- Chairman PPP appoints Mr. Nisar Khohru as PPP Sindh President**

On October 20, 2016, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari nominated Sindh Senior Minister Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khohru as PPP Sindh President. Earlier, former Chief Minister Sindh Syed Qaim Ali Shah was holding this post.

As per Sindh CM's Adviser on Information Moula Bux Chandio, the following PPP leaders will support Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khohru in carrying out his presidency of the party's Sindh Chapter:

1. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah
2. Minister for Agriculture Mr. Sohail Anwar Sayal
3. Adviser to Chief Minister on Labour Senator Saeed Ghani
4. Sindh Coordination Committee member Mr. Rashid Hussain Rabbani,
5. Sindh Coordination Committee member Mr. Waqar Mehdi
6. Sindh Coordination Committee member Ms. Najmi Alam
7. Sindh Coordination Committee member Mr. Zulfiqar Qaimkhani and other PPP leaders.

Mr. Moula Bux Chandio also said that the intra-party elections within PPP were different from other party's elections, as PPP had chosen to enter a realistic process of intra-party-elections while others simply engineered their intra-party-elections.

### **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) – PTI boycotts joint session of parliament**

On October 4, 2016, PTI Chairman Mr. Imran Khan made a surprising decision on behalf of his party that it would boycott the joint session of parliament due to take place on October 5, 2016.<sup>19</sup> As per his press conference at his Banigala residence, "We have debated on the matter in our party meeting and decided to boycott the session tomorrow (October 5, 2016) because we think Nawaz Sharif has lost the legitimacy to remain the prime minister."

The joint session of the parliament was being convened on October 5-7, 2016. A PTI delegation led by Shah Mehmood Qureshi had earlier attended an All Parties Conference on October 3, 2016 at the Prime Minister's House. The details regarding the party meeting that resulted in this policy decision of the party are not known.

### **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) – Announcement of Islamabad siege**



PTI Chairman Mr. Imran Khan and PTI Vice-Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi at a party meeting in Islamabad

On October 6, 2016, PTI Chairman Mr. Imran Khan chaired a meeting of his party at a local hotel in Islamabad.<sup>20</sup> He announced to his party workers that they would lay siege in Islamabad on Oct 30, 2016. The purpose behind this siege was to demand the resignation of the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif or to make him submit to the process of accountability in the backdrop of the Panama Papers leaks.

Details regarding the party meeting are not available except what is reported in the media that he consulted his party workers on how to proceed on his announcement of shutting down Islamabad.

The PTI leadership met again on October 17, 2016 in order to decide a new date for the party's planned siege of Islamabad.<sup>21</sup> According to the PTI Vice-Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi, the reason behind change in date was the annual election of the Supreme Court Bar Association scheduled on October 31, 2016. After the party meeting, a new date, November 2, 2016, was announced by the Chairman.

18. No one can become PM by hitting a sixer, The News, October 6, 2016, as accessed on November 10, 2016 at <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/155303-No-one-can-become-PM-by-hitting-a-sixer-Bilawal>

19. Imran boycotts joint session, The News, October 5, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/155037-Imran-boycotts-joint-session-on-Kashmir>

20. Imran plans siege of Islamabad, DAWN, October 7, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1288516/imran-plans-siege-of-islamabad-on-oct-30>

21. PTI to decide new date for Islamabad siege, DAWN, October 17, 2016, as accessed on November 11, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1290503/pti-to-decide-new-date-for-islamabad-siege-today>



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