



ANOTHER STAIN ON THE FACE OF DEMOCRACY

PRELIMINARY REPORT – PRE-POLL
RIGGING

DECEMBER, 2007

BY

ELECTION MONITORING CELL
PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY
(PPP)



FOREWARD

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Chairperson Pakistan Peoples Party constituted the local body Election Monitoring Cell for the 2005 local bodies elections at the centre as well as in all the four provinces of Pakistan. The Central Monitoring Cell worked out the said Elections and compiled a Booklet which after approval of the Chairperson was printed under the nomenclature of 'Another Stain on the Face of Democracy'. In a press conference addressed by Makhdoom Amin Fahim President ARD flanked by Raja Pervez Ashraf Secretary PPPP, Sherry Rehman MNA, Central Information Secretary PPPP, and members of the Monitoring Cell, the Booklet was distributed and extracts whereof highlighted. Copies were also sent through the Foreign Liaison Committee- PPP to the International Community through their Embassies.

The Chairperson was thereafter pleased to confer continuity to the Cell by redesignating it as the Central Election Monitoring Cell for overseeing the General Elections. The Monitoring cell has since been working very diligently and members have worked their hearts out. Apart from challenging the flawed Electoral Lists successfully through Petition before the Supreme Court of Pakistan moved on behalf of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Chairperson PPPP challenge to the inapplicability of Pakistani Laws in FATA and the Northern Areas has also been identically made to bring the most volatile area into the main streamline of Pakistani Nationhood. The Electoral Lists, the delimitation of constituencies have been brought on ECP Web Site with consistent representation, Press and Media calls by the Central Election Monitoring Cell. The Pre-Poll rigging highlighted by the Cell is reflective from the over 1100 complaints, innumerable press conferences, awareness through National as well as International televised talk shows, repetitive calls upon the Election Commission of Pakistan, and interaction with the foreign Election Monitoring agencies. The Election Monitoring Cell in the Central Secretariat has been equipped with state of the Art IT enabled environment including SMS enabled systems, multiple servers as well as numerous systems connecting each and every constituency of the four provinces through a Wide Area Network (WAN). The shadow Returning Officers in provinces and Districts have been set up comprising retired Judges. Peoples Lawyers Forum has been involved in all tiers and with every candidate of the PPPP. Human Rights Wing has been charged to highlight excesses committed upon voters and/or their families, Peoples Youth Organization of the PPPP have been trained to facilitate Election day activities. Polling agent training in coordination with foreign Monitoring Agencies is also in the offing throughout Pakistan. All out efforts are afoot to manage the Elections to the best possible means under constant guidance of the Chairperson. This preliminary report will be followed by complete analysis of the Elections 2008. Special thanks to all the members of the Election Monitoring Cell PPP for their invaluable contributions to this report.

Senator

Sardar Mohammad Latif Khan Khosa

Chairman Central Election Monitoring Cell- PPPP

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CENTRAL ELECTION MONITORING CELL –PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY
CENTRAL SECRETARIAT ISLAMABAD

PREPOLL RIGGING COMPLAINTS

CONSOLIDATED REPORT

Synopsis of Major Complaints

The Master Plan of Rigging 2008 Elections Unveiled

The administration has planned to rig the Elections in the following manner:

1. Where an opposing candidate is strong in an area, they have planned to create a conflict at the polling station, even killing people if necessary, to stop polls for at least 3 – 4 hours. The polling stations will be granted extended opening of thirty minutes which will not be made up for the time lost.
2. Where they collect and secure the ballot box at the end of the polling day, the place will be broken into and ballots will be not be stolen but thrown on the floor so they will have solid basis to call for a re-count during which process they will add the votes for their candidates.
3. 90 percent of the equipment that the USA gave the government of Pakistan to fight terrorism is being used to monitor and to keep a check on their political opponents especially the PPP. All of our communications as well as that of other major leaders in other parties are compromised by them. They listen to our conversations up to a mile away and intercept our communications.
4. The regime has asked government sponsored candidates to give names of their security guards and local thugs to enroll into the police for three days on election duty. These also include ex-Army personnel. They will be used to fire at voter's stations and drive voters away so that ballots can be stuffed.
5. Election officials are still being changed/transferred.
6. Military Intelligence sits in the offices of returning officers, police officials and other elections officials.
7. Election agents with voter's lists are being asked to give tampered lists to presiding officers.
8. Election being stitched up.

Remedial actions needed as follows:

- A. Request Rangers at high priority at polling stations to counter aforesated plans to disrupt and break in.
- B. Regime must be stopped from hiring/employing new personnel.
- C. All officials should be transferred out and replaced with officials prior to November 20, 2007 when the Election Schedule was announced.
- D. Clear public order from Army Chief and President Musharraf is needed ordering ISI, MI, and IB officials not to meet with candidates, campaign or approach election officials.

- E. Voters lists must be put on Web Pages and tampered lists should not be provided to the presiding officers.
- F. Nazims must be suspended, bulk transfer of officials since November 20, 2007 onward but pre-dated should be rescinded.
- G. Improvised polling stations should be abolished and only polling stations within the government owned primary and secondary schools be designated.
- H. List of polling stations should be forthwith delineated so that the voters know well in advance where to cast their votes.
- I. The polling agents should be allowed to affix their seals on the polling boxes which should at no point in time be removed from out of their sight.

The count of votes should be done in the presence of polling agents and copy of the count on the prescribed form handed over there and then to the polling agents under stamp and signature of the presiding officers which should be simultaneously given to the print and electronic media hoping this will clear some of the dust and leads towards transparency in elections.

Relatives of Nazims contesting elections

Kindly take action immediately against the Nazims listed below who are massively supporting their kith and kin by using the entire state machinery. These Nazim without delay be suspended and the Provincial Government may be directed to take strict notice of illegal campaigns, misuse of authority, illegal use of state machinery/police force.

Below is a list of Nazims of Punjab whose relatives are contesting General Elections.

Post	Name	Relative Candidate	Constituency
Dist Naib Nazim	Haji Idrees	Mohd. Hanif (father)	PP-142
Town Nazim-Data Gunj Baksh	Tariq Sana Bajwa	Arif Sana Bajwa (brother)	PP-139
Town Nazim- Shalimar- Lahore	Ms. Shafqat-Un- Nisa	Mian Ikhtlaq Guddo (husband)	NA-123
Dist. Nazim- Lahore	Mian Amer Mehmood	Mian Tallat (close friend)	PP-144
Town Nazim- Gulberg- Lahore	Faraz Chaudhry	Aleem Khan	NA-127 and PP147
Samanabad Town Councilor	Brother of Mian Aslam Iqbal	Mian Mohd. Aslam Iqbal	PP-148
Dist. Nazim- Rawalpindi	Raja Javed Ikhlas	Raja Ahsan Ikhlas	NA- 50
Town Nazim Rawalpindi	Sheikh Rashid Shafiq	Sheikh Rasheed (Uncle)	NA-55 and NA-56
Town Nazim- Rawalpindi	Raja Nasir	Raja Basharat (brother)	NA-54 and PP-6
Dist. Naib Nazim-	Ch. Farrukh Altaf	Ch. Shahbaz	NA-62

Jhelum		Hussain	
Dist. Nazim-Kushab	Ghulam Mohd. Tiwana	Qaiz Ullah Tiwana (relative)	NA-70
Dist Nazim-Bhakkar	Hameed Akbar Khan Niwani	Rasheed Akbar Khan (brother)	NA-70
Dist Nazim-Faisalabad	Rana Zahid Tauseef	Rana Asif Tauseef	NA-80
Dist Nazim-Gujranwala	Fayyaz Chatta	Hamid Nasir Chatta	NA-101 and PP-103
Tehsil Nazim-Gujranwala	Rizwan Zafar	Dr. Jameel Cheema	PP-99
Tehsil Nazim	Rana Sajjad	Rana Shamshad	PP-100
Dist Nazim - Hafizabad	Mubassar Bhatti	Liaqat Bhatti (Uncle)	NA-103
Dist. Nazim Gujrat	Ch. Shafaat Hussain	Ch. Wajahat (brother) and Ch. Shujaat (brother) Ch. Moonis Elahi (Nephew)	NA-104 and NA-105 and PP-110
Dist. Nazim- Mandi Bahauddin	Ch. Riaz	Basima Riaz (daughter)	PP-117
Dist. Nazim-Sialkot	Akmal Cheema	Ajmal Cheema (brother)	PP-121
Tehsil Nazim-Sambrial	Amir Ghumman	Azeem Ghumman	PP-131
Dist. Naib Nazim-Sargodha	Mian Sultan Ali Ranjha	Mian Manazir Ali Ranjha (Father)	PP-31
Tehsil Nazim-Pattoki	Sardar Atif Naqai	Sardar Asif Naqai (brother) Sardar Talib Naqai	NA-141 and NA-142
Dist. Naib Nazim-Okara	Rao Atif Iqbal	Rao Sikandar Iqbal (father)	NA-144
Dist. Nazim-Okara	Syed Asad Ali Gillani	Raza Ali Gillani (brother)	
Tehsil Nazim-Depalpur	Khurram Jehangir Watto	Mian Manzoor Watto	2 NA and 2 PP seats
Tehsil Nazim-Mailsi	Asim Saeed Manais	Saeed Ahmed Khan Manais	NA-156
Dist Nazim-Rajanpur	Raza Khan Dareshak	Sardar Nasrullah Dareshak	NA-175
Dist. Nazim-Bahawalpur	Tariq Cheema	Tahir Cheema	NA-190
Tehsil Nazim-Liaqatpur	Makhdoom Hussain	Syed Alam	NA- 192
Dist Naib Nazim	Hussain Warriach	Zafar Warriach (father)	NA-196

Tehsil Nazim-Mian Channo	Pir Shujaat Hussain	Zahoor Ahmed Qureshi (son)	PP-217
Tehsil Nazim	Mohd. Ali Niazi	Abdul Razzaq Khan (Father)	PP- 218
Tehsil Nazim-Manchanabad	Syed Qalandar Shah	Syed Nazar Shah (brother)	PP-278
Dist. Nazim – Pakpattan	Rao Nasim Hashim	Rao Umer Hashim (son)	PP-228
Tehsil Nazim-Chichawatni	Aqeel Jutt	Arshad Jutt (bother)	PP-225
Tehsil Nazim- Toba Tek Singh	Mian Javed	Farhan Latif (relative)	NA-
Dist. Nazim-Sheikhupura	Mian Jalil Sharqpuri	Mian Waleed Sharqpuri (relative)	
Dist. Nazim-Nankana	Mumtaz Ali Shah	Tariq Shah (brother)	NA-137

Polling Scheme still awaited!

That the polling scheme has not yet been released by the ECP which is a matter of grave concern for the PPPP. The voters linked up by the polling stations should be notified immediately as not much time is left in the poling day. The polling stations need to be immediately notified and the voters should know where to cast their votes. The candidates campaigning are being repeatedly asked by their constituents but are unable to provide any answer due to lack of information supplied by the ECP. The polling scheme as well as the list of voters attached with each polling station besides being notified should be immediately put on the ECP Web Site so as to be downloaded by the stake holders.

This being most urgent it is requested that the polling scheme with the earmarked voters be notified and brought on the Web Site without any delay.

5000 Bogus Votes in PPP Chairpersons Constituency

In the constituency of Larkana wherefrom Chairperson Pakistan Peoples Party Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is contesting, 5000 bogus votes were identified consequent upon the display of draft electronic lists. They were identified consequent upon the display of draft electronic lists. They were promised to be removed by the concerned officer of the Election Commission at Larkana. However, in the final list recently supplied the very names subsist. Obviously, such votes would be utilized for illegal purposes by the manipulators.

Pre-Poll Rigging in Jacobabad

The PPP workers are actively victimized as well as harassed in the above titled District. Most notably, TPO Arbab Soomro, SHO City Mukhtair Soomro, and SHO Mauladad

Saeed Ahmed Jumani are leading the illegal operations by threatening the PPPP loyalists/supporters; hence, completely violating the very code set forth by the ECP. The said officials have also arrested several PPPP workers in false cases, and have impounded dozens of tractors, wagons, motorcycles simply to disrupt the electoral race. These illegal acts without more ado call for remedial action at your end.

It is therefore requested that due notice of this grave misconduct be taken in order to ensure a level playing field for all candidates; otherwise the Elections may be reduced to a mere farce if this continues.

Police Partisan Action in Sargodha

The Election Monitoring Cell- PPPP has received a complaint regarding the misuse of authority by the police in the above titled District. It is stated with great despair that the police has become a party to the forth coming elections to be held on January 8, 2007 by utilizing illegal tactics to harass candidates in order ensure success of the PML-Q candidates. The police are blatantly and utterly violating the code of conduct set forth by the Election Commission of Pakistan. They are utterly using batons against people who had gathered to attend a corner meeting of a PPPP candidate. It is their intention to hijack the election, to spread fear among the masses, and to completely damage the electoral process itself. The police force in connivance with the Nazim is openly threatening the loyalist supporters of PPPP of dire consequences and all persecutory threats are being unleashed to brow beat them into submission. All the aforestated tactics are not only violation of the code of conduct but also offensive to law and call for remedial action at your end.

Harassment of Candidates in Muzzaffargarh

Complaint regarding rigging in the forth coming elections, harassment of candidates, and threats from police from the above titled constituency has been received by the Central Monitoring Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians. It is learnt that official police escorts are being illegally utilized by the PML candidates in collusion with the District Nazims of the respective constituency, which is wholly illegal, offensive to law, and negates the election code of conduct. In the aforereferred District, the Administration is illegally using the state machinery/resources to rig the elections. Every sort of illegal methodology is being taken such as polling stations have been changed to favor the PML candidates. It is stated with great despair that the police has become a party to the forth coming elections to be held on January 8, 2007 by utilizing illegal tactics to harass candidates in order to ensure success of the PML-Q candidates. The police are blatantly and utterly violating the code of conduct set forth by the Election Commission of Pakistan. All the aforestated tactics are not only violation of the code of conduct but also offensive to law and call for remedial action at your end.

Police harassment in Thatta

That complaint regarding rigging in the forth coming elections, harassment of candidates, and threats from police from the above titled District has been received by the Central Monitoring Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians.

It is learnt that the local police in connivance with the District Nazim has constituted various 'Teams' to raid houses and offices of candidates who are taking part in the forth coming elections against the Kings Party. All this is being done to ensure success of the ruling party candidate. The PPPP loyalists are constantly being threatened by the police. In one particular instance, the police illegally raided one of PPPP loyalist/supporter's house and demanded that recovery of fake outstanding loan. False cases are being registered by the police. The very code of conduct set forth by the Election Commission is being blatantly violated which in turn is a sheer mockery of justice and call for remedial action at your end.

Former Foreign Minister still has protocol

That complaint against the former Foreign Minister of the PML-Q Mr. Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri regarding rigging in the forth coming elections as well as misuse of protocol has been received by the Central Monitoring Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians. It is learnt that Mr. Kasuri is roaming about in his constituency with official protocol along with police force. The said police in collusion with Mr. Kasuri are forcing the traders as well as market committees to display banners of PML-Q candidates. Not only that, the banners of other candidates, especially PPPP are being torn to shreds and the PPPP loyalists are being unashamedly threatened by the police force. All this is being done to ensure success of the ruling party candidate. The very code of conduct set forth by the Election Commission is being blatantly violated which in turn is a sheer mockery of justice and call for remedial action at your end.

Police Intimidation in Gujranwala

That complaint against the pre-poll rigging in the forth coming elections as well as police intimidation of candidates in the above titled District has been received by the Central Monitoring Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians.

The police in participation with the District Nazim is actively harassing PPPP candidates due to the fact that PML is fearful of losing the electoral race. In order to brow beat PPPP loyalist into submission, the said police is utilizing all sorts of illegal tactics and plans to threaten, harass, and intimidate the PPPP candidates so that the entire electoral process be disrupted and rigged to benefit the PML-Q. The very code of conduct set forth by the Election Commission is being blatantly violated which is inestimable and in turn is a sheer mockery of justice. These illegal acts without more ado call for remedial action at your end.

Police Interference and harassment in Faisalabad

That complaint against the pre-poll rigging in the forth coming elections as well as undue harassment of PPPP candidates by the police in the above titled District has been received by the Central Monitoring Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians.

The aforementioned District has been a strong hold of PPP since many years. Trepidation of this fact, the District Nazim in connivance with the police force is vehemently defying the law of the land and illegally canvassing in favor of the PML candidates. Furthermore, the police is illegally harassing as well as threatening PPP loyalists/supporters of dire consequences, and are utilizing all sorts of illegal tactic to brow beat the PPP workers/leaders into submission. These acts are not conducive to the electoral process and are a sheer violation of the very code of conduct set forth by the Election Commission; hence, instantaneously call for remedial action at your end.

Frontier Corps Interference

Our candidate Mr. Ali Madad Jattak from Balochistan PB-5 has reported that FC is terrorizing the people and forcing and threatening them to vote for the nominee of PML (Q) or else to suffer dire consequences . The supporters of Mr. Jattak are being rounded up and illegally confined. Scare and terror has been created to detour the voters from casting their votes on the day of poll. The FC intends to take charge of the polling stations and stuff the boxes to bail out the “Kings Party.

Illegal Transfers / Postings

The DRO Jacobabad Mr. Khadim Hussain Tanio who didn't accept dictation was consequently transferred and replaced by Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Kalwar on December 14, 2007. Such transfer being after the Election Schedule is wholly illegal and while it was in the offing our Sindh Chapter had pointed out through letters and Media coverage, and even thereafter voices have been raised and fingers pointed towards this blatant abuse of law.

Transfer of Assistant Election Commissioner Jacobabad

Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan Afridi, Assistant Election Commissioner Jacobabad was transferred on December 19, 2007 and stands replaced by Mr. Hassam-ud-Din Soomro. This transfer having been effectuated after the Election Schedule is not only illegal but also maliciously motivated as the PML-Q Candidates are Soomro's (Ms. Fariha Soomro for NA and her son Mr. Fawwad). Such obvious interchange of officers even of the Election Commission would render the Commission partisan.

Administrative Interference

The police personnel of District Sargodha in order to intimidate the District President PPP Rao Tahir criminally trespassed into his house in the small hours and arrested his nephew (adopted son) a member of District assembly Rao Zahid. He was booked in a false case. The acting DPO Sargodha is dancing to the tunes of Anwar Cheema and his son Amer Cheema of the PML-Q. By thus persecuting head of the District PPP, the loyal PPP workers are being intimidated.

Misuse of Authority by CDA

It is requested that Mustafa Nazwz Khokhar, a PML-Q candidate for NA-49 is using CDA polls for hanging banners and posters by the dozens throughout the constituency. Clearly in violation of the code of conduct issued by your office. This also falls under misuse of official authority as the Capital Development Authority is allowing and facilitating the ad campaigns of PML candidates.

Zila Nazim Chakwal running canvassing for Ch. Pervaiz Elahi

Zila Nazim Chakwal Sardar Ghulam Abbas is openly canvassing for PML-Q candidate Ex-CM Punjab Pervez Elahi Chaudry. In doing so, he is using his official capacity to the fullest in employing not only the Tehsil Nazims but also the district administration and the police. On the 23rd Dec 2007 at 2pm an official police vehicle no CHB 7583 driven by ASI Nawab Khan accompanied by ASI Mohammed Ilyas along with two other policemen one by the name of Farhat Shah started ripping off PPP party banners and flags upon which the workers resisted. These workers were then beaten up viciously thrown inside the police van and taken to the police station.

District Nazim Ghotki canvassing openly

No action has been taken against Mukhtiarkar Nazir Ahmed Mahar who has been actively involved in the canvassing/lobbying incessantly for Mr Ali Mohammed Mahar and Mr Ali Nawaz Mahar by harassing local voters at the behest of Zila Nazim Ali Gohar Mehar for PS-06 Ghotki

Purchase of Ballot Boxes

The PML(Q) candidates have employed funds to Purchase ballot boxes. Ballot books would be purchased for twenty thousand rupees (Rs.20,000/-) from the presiding officers the moment it reaches to them a day or two before the Polling date.

Administrative Interference

Tehsil Nazim in constituency#114 is using his influence to support openly PMLQ candidate. He also mentioned that an upright DSP Mr. Malik Liaqat was sent on forced leave for not supporting PMLQ candidate.

Rigging by Care Taker Government

The Caretaker Governments have devised the most dubious device to rig the Elections in that 3 days before Elections they intend to employ thousands of "Razakars" to man the Polling Stations and under the garb of maintaining law and order they will create a

lawless situation scaring away all voters except those of the PML(Q) supporters and then with their help, these alleged "Razakars" will be busy stuffing ballot boxes on favor of the PML(Q) candidates.

District Nazims canvassing for PML(F) candidates

Ms. Nafeesa Shah former District Nazim has complained that the EDO Education Khairpur has been canvassing for PML(F) Candidates and distributing offer letters. She has also asserted that the District Administration Khairpur was pressurizing government employees for manipulating devices to bail out the Candidates of the PML(F) and PML(Q). Reference can also be made to the news item appearing in the National Daily Dawn.

Illegal Transfers

Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan Afridi, Assistant Election Commissioner Jacobabad was transferred on December 19, 2007 and stands replaced by Mr. Hassam-ud-Din Soomro. This transfer having been effectuated after the Election Schedule is not only illegal but also maliciously motivated as the PML-Q Candidates are Soomro's (Ms. Fariha Soomro for NA and her son Mr. Fawwad). Such obvious interchange of officers even of the Election Commission would render the Commission partisan.

Pre-Poll Rigging in Multan

That complaint against the pre-poll rigging in the forth coming elections as well as interference by the police in the above titled District has been received by the Central Monitoring Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians.

The aforementioned District has been a strong hold of PPPP since many years. Dreadful of this fact, the District Nazim in connivance with the police force is vehemently defying the law of the land and illegally canvassing in favor of the PML candidates. Furthermore, the police are actively involved in utilizing illegal methods of registering false cases against the PPPP loyalists/supporters. The state machinery is being used to favor the PML candidates so that they achieve success in the up coming electoral race. In lieu of this, the police is illegally harassing as well as threatening PPPP loyalists/supporters of dire consequences, and are utilizing all sorts of illegal tactic to brow beat the PPPP workers/leaders into submission. A level playing field is obviously not being provided to all the candidates which is utterly violative of the very code of conduct set forth by the Election Commission; hence, instantaneously call for remedial action at your end.

Illegal Transfers & Postings

The DRO Jacobabad Mr. Khadim Hussain Tanio who didn't accept dictation was consequently transferred and replaced by Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Kalwar on December 14, 2007. Such transfer being after the Election Schedule is wholly illegal and while it was in the offing our Sindh Chapter had pointed out through letters and Media coverage, and

even thereafter voices have been raised and fingers pointed towards this blatant abuse of law.

Rigging Cell formed at Punjab Governor House

The government of Punjab has set up a 'Rigging Cell' at Governors House comprising senior bureaucrats namely;

1. Mr. Hassan Waseem Afzal (Deputed for PPP)
2. Mr. G. M. Sikandar (Deputed for PML-N)

Fake TV Ad

PML (F) advertisement shown in Sindhi language news channels (Sindh TV and KTN News) shows Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and claims that Pir Pagara had introduced him in politics. This claim is factually wrong and the picture is also fake and manipulated. ECP was requested to order the PML(F) not to distort facts and immediately withdraw this advertisement because it is a violation of Code of Conduct for the Elections.

Pre-Poll Rigging in Lahore District

That complaint against the pre-poll rigging in the forth coming elections as well as interference by the police in the above titled District has been received by the Central Election Monitoring Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians.

Every sort of illegal methodology is taking place such as polling stations have been changed to favor the PML candidates; 25000 fake ballot papers have been printed; police is being utilized to brow beat the voters/citizens into submission and the voters/loyalists of PPPP are constantly being harassed.

PML candidates are vigorously enjoying the use of state machinery as well as official police squads; flagrantly announcing development schemes, harassing and threatening voters/citizens of the community. It is their intention to hijack the election, to spread fear among the masses, and to completely damage the electoral process itself.

Several illegal transfers have also taken place in the said District to ensure success of PML. Financial resources of the Government are being abused/misused by the local Government officials at the behest of the regime in the forth coming elections. It is learnt that official police escorts are being illegally utilized by the PML candidates in collusion with the District Nazims of the respective constituencies, which is wholly illegal, offensive to law, and negates the election code of conduct.

A level playing field is obviously not being provided to all the candidates which is utterly violative of the very code of conduct set forth by the Election Commission; hence, instantaneously call for remedial action at your end.

Pre-Poll rigging by government official

Extreme interference in the electoral process by Mr. Akhlaq Tarrar, Secretary LG&RD, government of Punjab under the direction of Ch. Pervaiz Elahi, Provincial President PMLQ Punjab who yields power as the Chief Executive of the province. Mr. Maqsood, Tehsil Nazim Pasroor, conscientious upright honest person refused to oblige the candidate of PML-Q, who sought favor infringing upon the code of conduct for elections issued by ECP. The said secretary LG&RD was persuaded to direct an inquiry against him through the DG local bodies who is harassing him to the hilt. He has again been summoned to appear tomorrow even though Eid holidays are in the offing. If he does not succumb to the nefarious designs afore referred, he has been threatened to be suspended. This would not only be persecutory for the said Tehsil Nazim but would also send a message to the others and render them subservient to the PML (Q).

Distribution of Ushr,Zakat Funds to the voters by Ch. Pervaiz Elahi

Ch. Pervaiz Elahi, President Punjab PML (Q) / former CM is recently distributing rupees 1500/- per person under his own signature from the Ushr Zakat / Bait-ul-Maal fund. This is another way of bribing the voters at the cost of funds meant for the destitute, poor and needy persons. Photocopy of the money order receipt as well as the message of Mr. Pervaiz Elahi attached herewith. ECP should take notice of such a blatant malpractice and initiate necessary action for the corrupt practices against the provincial chief of PML (Q).

Recruitment of police personnel on contract

The PPPP has reliably learnt that provincial governments/establishment under the garb of maintenance of law & orders are recruiting police personnel at a large scale on contract basis. Such guised law-enforcing agency would be used for massive rigging of polls before and on the Election Day. They would be assigned special task of intimidating the voters and scare away the general public consequent whereto polling boxes would be stuffed to bale out the 'Kings Party' candidates. Such contract employments must be pre-empted and stopped forthwith.

Postal Ballot Collections

Government of Punjab / Administration have started collecting ballot papers of Official Employees who stand notified for Election duties at various Polling Stations in the Province. Such ballot Papers which are to be collected by the 28th Dec will be stamped by the Administration in favour of the Candidates of PML (Q). The surge of Ballot Papers of such employees forthcoming comparing with any Past Polls would suffice to prove how well nigh 100% votes were forthcoming.

Interference by Intelligence Agencies

Major Taimoor of the Military Intelligence kept sitting for 5 hours in the chamber of the Returning Officer Thurparker till the Nomination papers of PPPP nominated candidate Mr. Samejo were rejected. Thirteen honorable judges of the Supreme Court had already ruled that no agency man would be allowed to visit any court premises, which are sanctuaries of justice for the people rights. This special reference is not an isolated instance but is reflective of the interference of the agencies in the electoral process, the fairness of which is your constitutional obligation. If the timidity and subservience of the returning officers is not checked no useful purpose would be served for holding the General Elections which would be rendered farcical and the incoming parliament would not be reflective of the peoples will.

Police harassment in Vehari District

That complaint against the pre-poll rigging in the forth coming elections as well as interference by the police in the above titled District has been received by the Central Election Monitoring Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians.

The police officials of the abovementioned District in collusion with the District Nazim are utilizing every sort of illegal methodology to rig the forthcoming electoral race. Polling stations have been changed to favor the PML candidates; fake ballot papers have been printed; police is being utilized to brow beat the voters/citizens into submission and the voters/loyalists of PPPP are constantly being harassed.

The aforereferred District Nazim is candidly favoring his brother who is contesting as an independent candidate from one of the constituencies in the said District; by providing official police force, state resources, funds as well as services of government employees. PML candidates are vigorously enjoying the use of state machinery as well as official police squads; flagrantly announcing development schemes, harassing and threatening voters/citizens of the community. It is their intention to hijack the election, to spread fear among the masses, and to completely damage the electoral process itself.

A level playing field is obviously not being provided to all the candidates which is utterly violative of the very code of conduct set forth by the Election Commission; hence, instantaneously call for remedial action at your end.

Complaint against EDO Khairpur, Syed Sikandar Ali Shah

Nafisa Shah, Candidate PS-29 has lodged a complaint against the EDO Education, Khairpur, Syed Sikandar Ali Shah that he is involved in election campaign of PML-F on PS-29, Khairpur. He is using both his official position and government resources in this regard. The EDO has issued 500 orders of primary school teachers PST on 18th December 2007. All of these are being given to people to influence the election in District Khairpur. Since September, he has given more than 400 jobs of peons, chawkidars, naib qasids in the education department, all against the existing policies.

Transfer of Assistant Election Commissioner Jacobabad

That complaint against the pre-poll rigging and the illegal transfer of the Assistant Election Commissioner of Jacobabad has been received by the Central Election Monitoring Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians.

The Assistant Election Commissioner (AEC), Jacobabad Mr. Liaqat Ali Afridi has been replaced with a relative of the caretaker Prime Minister. In addition, the DRO Mr. Muneer Khuhro is quite palpably playing a role of a henchman of PML-Q's candidate Mr. Fahad Malik. The above-mentioned District has become a playing field for all sorts of illegal activities such as kidnapping PPPP workers, holding them hostage at private residences etc.

A level playing field is obviously not being provided to all the candidates which is utterly violative of the very code of conduct set forth by the Election Commission; hence, instantaneously call for remedial action at your end.

Pre-Poll rigging in Balochistan

Report concerning Balochistan's subject woes in today's Dawn. It is a painful exposition of the terrible ground realities concerning Balochistan. If the regime and the ECP do not take serious action we may be responsible for provoking despondency in that aggrieved area about the validity of the election process. Everybody would know that ignoring the genuine grievances pertaining to the forth-coming polls may turnout to be like courting a disaster in Balochistan.

Pre-Poll rigging by Nazims of Punjab

Report sent to ECP which highlights the personal involvement of Nazims in various districts of the Punjab particularly. By now it should be clear to the ECP that it would be a miracle if the polls are held with some fairness. Despite the claims of the regime the local Nazims because of lack of integrity or inducement from the regime or both appear to be hell bent on creating a national crisis regardless of its consequences. Directives if any issued to them to maintain neutrality are ignored viciously.

Police Interference

We have repeatedly drawn ECP's attention to the fact that the police is interfering massively in the conduct of the election campaign which is against all relevant laws and rules. Please take immediate action to stop such unlawful interference as such activities are bound to make a failure of the election process. Such a situation is sure to produce a national crises and calls for serious steps to counter the same.

Pre-Poll rigging by Administration Officials

It has reliably been learned that Punjab Administration is using the following elements to indulge in massive pre-poll rigging:

1. Punjab Police is inducting additional Policemen on daily wages to rig the elections
2. Major Taimur of MI Sindh is working with Returning Officers (one of them named Mr. Samejho) to influence the elctions in favor of anti-PPP forces

3. Mr. Mumtaz Shah 'Huda' of ISI is openly supporting the anti-PPP campaign

Pre-Poll rigging in Rajanpur and Usage of state resources

Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, PPP central leader and former caretaker premier, has condemned the alleged use of Government resources by Nasrullah Dareshak and his sons in their campaign in Rajanpur district and urged EC to take notice of the violation of the code of conduct. ECP was asked to take immediate notice of these blatant violations of electoral code of conduct 2008 and ensure fair and free election in the constituency.

Interference by district Nazim Gujrat

Ch Ahmed Mukhtar candidate of NA-105 and pp-111 Gujrat, has launched several complaints regarding the blatant acts of violation of electoral code of conduct by the Chaudharys of Gujrat but it is very unfortunate that no action has been taken so far.

Inaccessible polling stations

Mr. Babu Abdul Khaliq Mirza PPP candidate for PS-97 has complained and mentioned about 78 inaccessible polling station in his constituency which are inaccessible for his voters.

Pre-poll rigging by District Administration

Central election Monitoring Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party is continuously receiving complaints from the candidates of PPP that district administration is helping PML-Q candidates. We have got enormous complaints that Punjab Police is using its official position to get undue advantage in electoral process in favor of its favorite candidates. These detailed complaints by the PPP candidates are self-explanatory and show the blatant violation of the trust imposed in Punjab Police and resultant gross misconduct leading to the violation of electoral code of conduct.

Police officials involved in misusing their official positions are liable for their removal from service under E&D rules and regulations for Government Servants. ECP was asked to focus and take appropriate action to stop Police gross misconduct in the districts of Rajanpur, D.G Khan and Muzaffargarh particularly.

Pre-Poll rigging in Attock

Malik Amin Aslam, former minister of state and independent candidate for NA-57, has accused Maj. (R) Tahir Sadiq, District Nazim Attock, of running the election campaign of his daughter, son-in-law and brother-in-law for the three NA seats of District Attock.

ECP may take immediate notice against this blatant act of pre-poll rigging and violation of Electoral code of conduct 2008.

Pre-Poll rigging in Jacobabad

Since the announcement of the schedule for the 2008 general elections that DPO Jacobabad Muneer Khuhro has become a party in the pre-poll rigging and instead of being DPO he seems performing duties as protocol officer of the PML (Q) candidates in Jacobabad. Also reported by daily Frontier Post. ECP should take immediate notice of the issue subjected above and assure no interference from government officials in the area.

Pre-Poll rigging by caretaker minister in Balochistan

Caretaker Minister from Balochistan Ms Roshan Khursid Barocha is contesting elections while still being in Office. This is a clash of interests and being in direct dereliction of official duty should be taken notice of. Not only does this go against the Electoral Norms but is also a negation of fair play. Therefore, it ECP was requested that the afore mentioned minister may be stopped from taking part in the election and misusing her official position for personal gain.

‘Ghost’ Polling Stations would be used to rig the elections

Report carried by today’s The News highlighting that the Q- League is planning GHOST Polling Stations to the rig the Elections. As there is very little time now before the election day comes.

Pre-Poll rigging in NA-179

NA 179 PPP candidate Sardar Moazm Khan Jatoy has informed the CEMC that the Police officials posted in NA 179 and especially the SHO’s did not stopped working for ML (Q) candidates and are still asking for votes for ML (Q). ECP is strongly urged to take strict measures to stop this pre-poll rigging.

Registration of false F.I.Rs against PPP candidates

Since the announcement of the Schedule for the 2008 general elections DPO Jacobabad has become a party in the pre-polling electoral fraud and instead of acting in his position as DPO, he is acting as Protocol Officer of the PML-Q candidates in Jacobabad. DPO Muneer Khuhro has registered an FIR 165/2007 147, 148, 13 IAO at Civil Lines Police station against PPP candidates Mir Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani, PPP Candidate for NA-208, Mir Mumtaz Hussain Jakhrani, Abdul Sattar Brohi, General Secretary PPP District Jacobabad and others on the directives of PML-Q candidate. Surprisingly, the same Muneer Khuhro is also the DPO Investigations at the same time, thus it is requested that the investigation of the said FIR should be transferred to some other district and some independent police officer in the interest of justice should be appointed.

Caretaker Ministers Contesting Elections

It has come to our notice that two provincial care taker cabinet ministers are contesting elections against the norm. Pir Dr. Raza Kori, Minister of Religious Affairs in NWFP cabinet has filed his nomination papers from NA-20 (Laki Marwat). Similarly we have received reports that Roshan Khurshid Barocha, Minister in Balouchistan cabinet is also contesting election. Caretaker ministers are not supposed to contest general election. This makes the whole process of electioneering dubious where transparency of elections is the first causality. Pakistan Peoples Party strongly condemns this. Please take immediate action on the prevailing situation.

Pre-Poll Rigging in NA-105 and PP-111

Ch. Ahmed Mukhtar candidate for NA-105 and PP-111. It appears that rampant interference by the Local Nazim is upsetting the campaign of other candidates who do not belong to the party favored by the regime. As the process of election proceeds more and more interference by the regime appears to be the order of the day.

Bogus Voter Lists

A complaint and detailed list of Bogus Votes in Kashmore/Sindh has been sent to EMC. There are already so many complaints about pre-poll rigging but this proof is an obvious fact about the pre-poll rigging started for the upcoming election in January 2008.

Pre-Poll Rigging by MQM

Report published in the Daily Times of date December 17, 2007, which is self-explanatory. The MQM appears to be indulging in large-scale unlawful activities in Karachi under their governor. Quite naturally the PPP candidates/workers are at the receiving end in a big way. Such criminal activity is bound to frustrate any chance of elections being free and fair in the concerned province, ECP was asked to take serious action before it is too late and the nation is faced with unprecedented crises.

Pre-Poll Rigging in Dera Bugti

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti was awarded PPP ticket for contesting the general election from PB-24 Dera Bugti. He was however arrested by Major Adnan of the Military Intelligence on 18-11-2007. After being illegally detained for 3 to 4 days, he was given over to Barkhan police. That he was being prevented from my right to contest the election from PB-24 Dera Bugti, where from the only nominee of the Government party Mr. Tariq Massori possessing forged degree is sought to be elected unopposed.

Threats to PPP candidate in Dera Bugti

Large scale threats given to PPP candidate in Dera Bugti and brutally beaten by MI personnel. He has been threatened to face severe consequences if he enters his constituency.

Pre-Poll rigging in district Muzaffargarh NA-76

District administration in NA176 (PP-251) has already started misusing their office to canvass for candidates of the PML (Q). The entire district government machinery headed by District Nazim is running election campaign and using official human and material resources for the campaign purposes. The fact of the matter is that Mrs. Khalida Mohsin Qureshi from NA176 was winner in Election 2002, whereas PMLQ candidate Mr. Qasim Hinjra lost the Election 2002. However, Highway Division Muzaffargarh had issued tender on dated 10-11-2007 in which PMLQ candidate Mr. Malik Qasim Hinjra was stated as MNA of NA176 whom the grant was shown to be issued despite the fact that at that time the sitting MNA was Mrs. Khalida Mohsin Qureshi. Short Tender Notice copy was sent to ECP as a proof which is a clear violation of the Code of Conduct issued by ECP.

Pre-Poll rigging in district Kashmor, Kandhkot

District Nazim and Taluka Nazims of Kashmore and Kandhkot Talukas have already started misusing their office to canvass for candidates of the PML (Q). The entire district government machinery headed by District Nazim is running election campaign and using official human and material resources for the campaign purposes. Several election rallies and meetings were arranged. Recently, the Sindh TV reporter, Abdul Bari of Taluka Tangwani was attacked, assaulted and his camera was snatched when he got pictures and coverage of Zila Nazim Kashmore, who was running the election campaign of ruling party candidates.

There is bad law & order situation in the district. Keeping in view the situation and circumstances, there is fear of massive rigging and bloodshed also.

Pre-Poll rigging in NA-58 and PP-18

Candidate of PML-Q and Ex-Minister Col Malik Anwar is arranging dinner for 2200 on 15th December and highlighting and projecting himself as a candidate of PML-Q but sadly all the arrangements and expenses for the dinner have been arranged by TMA Pindi Gheb as the Tehsil Nazim Liaquat Khan is his brother.

Misuse of official resources by Ex-chief minister Punjab

A press report appearing in Daily "The Nation" dated "December 13, 2007" sent for information and immediate action by the Election Commission under intimation to this Cell.

Threats and Manipulation by Military Intelligence

PPP Election Monitoring Cell has been informed by PPP candidate from NA-267, Mr. Shabbir Ahmed Shahwani that threats and warnings have been issued to him by Military Intelligence (SIBI) in Bolan District from Telephone No.0833/413106 that he should withdraw his candidature in favor of Yar Muhammad Rind. Similarly, in the district headquarter of Chaghai in Dalbandin, pressure is being brought to bear upon the notables by two MI Majors namely Maj. Zia and Maj. Babar to vote in favor of PML (Q) candidates in Constituency No.NA-260 Chagai.

This sort of vandalism is highly serious and confirms the involvement of secret agencies to pressurize our candidates.

Difficulties in Gurat

ECP failed to take any action against the daily violation of electoral code and conduct by District Nazim Gujrat and Chaudharys Brothers against Ch. Ahmed Mukhtar PPP candidate NA-105 and PP-111.

Pre-Poll rigging in NA-58 and PP-18

District Nazim Attock Mr. Maj Tahir Sadiq and Tehsil Nazim Mr. Malik Liaquat Ali Khan are using full government powers/resources in the election campaigns for PML-Q candidates and thus violating ECP code of conduct. Please take immediate action to stop this blatant act of pre-poll rigging to ensure free and fair elections.

Pre-Poll rigging in NA-12 Swabi

A complaint has been received from Umar Farooq Khan Shewa, a candidate of PPP from NA-12 Swabi that the District Nazim is out rightly supporting the candidate of PML-Q (Mr. Usman). He is personally visiting with the candidate of PML-Q along with the government machinery in his campaign. ECP accordingly requested to please take notice of the open support extended by the Nazim which is sheer violation of the code of conduct of the Election Commission of Pakistan.

Transfers & Postings

A letter from Mr. Dabeer Hakro informs that following SHOs and DSPs have been transferred recently in Khairpur District, in violation of election rules. These transfers concern PS-34, on which PPP candidate is Naeem Kharal.

Transfer and posting of SHOs & DSPs

Date 9-12-2007

1. SHO Rabnawaz posted to Gambat and SHO Mangerio transferred from Gambat.

Date 12-12-2007

2. DSP Malik Dilawar has been transferred from Ripri, and DSP Iashari has been posted to Ripri.

Interference of R.P.O Sukkur Division

A complaint has been received from Pir Syed Mohammad Bachal Shah candidate for PS-30. It explains that regional Police Officer (R.P.O) Sukkur division Bachal Sangri is son of the manager of the Pir Pagaro. He is interfering in the election process. Every day he is posting officials on the fulfillment and requirement by Saddardin Shah S/O Pir Pagaro, who is contesting himself on 3 seats in the Khairpur District and he is influencing whole Sukkur division in favor of the candidates of Muslim League Functional. It is complained that he would help Muslim League Functional in polling bogus voting and rigging. It has been suggested that this R.P.O must be suspended immediately and election should take place with an unaligned R.P.O.

Murder of Three PPP workers in Naseerabad

Three PPP workers Liaquat Umrani, Bungul Umrani and Manthar Danger Umrani got killed while Hussain Ahmed received serious bullet injuries on Saturday, December 8th, 2007. Reports also suggest that the concerned police, perhaps under the unfair influence of the regime, were reluctant initially but later gave an F.I.R against ten nominated and three unidentified assailants.

Information received highlights that the caretaker minister Murad Abro and District Nazim Naseerabad, Fateh Ali Umrani appear to be a part of conspiracy which resulted in this gruesome loss of human lives. Additionally, some army Major named Javed is reported to be trying to influence Sadiq Umrani, a prominent provincial leader of PPP, to support an independent candidate named Zahoor Khoso in the elections involving the local National Assembly seat.

Pre-Poll rigging

Report published in today's "Dawn", which is self-explanatory. It also highlights the extent of official interference by the regime to influence the election process in a malevolent manner. Such incidents/ reporting is causing a great damage to the credibility of the Election Commission besides leaving the nation with prospect of a foul election being on offer.

Murder of Three PPP workers in Naseerabad

Three PPP workers Liaquat Umrani, Bungul Umrani and Manthar Danger Umrani got killed while Hussain Ahmed received serious bullet injuries on Saturday, December 8th, 2007. Reports also suggest that the concerned police, perhaps under the unfair influence of the regime, were reluctant initially but later gave an F.I.R against ten nominated and three unidentified assailants. Information received highlights that the caretaker minister Murad Abro and District Nazim Naseerabad, Fateh Ali Umrani appear to be a part of

conspiracy which resulted in this gruesome loses of human lives. Additionally, some army Major named Javed is reported to be trying to influence Sadiq Umrani, a prominent provincial leader of PPP, to support an independent candidate named Zahoor Khoso in the elections involving the local National Assembly seat. Sent to chief Secretary Balochistan.

Violence of ECC in District Gujrat by the Chaudharys of PML(Q)

Chaudhary Ahmed Muhtar, a candidate from NA-105 and PP- wherein he has provided you the evidence of violation of code of conduct of Election Commission of Pakistan in shape of photographs and press clippings.

Election Day rigging by the BMP

NA-172 and PP-245 is a tribal belt (tummun Laghari / fortmunro) Dera ghazi Khan, which is administered by Border Military Police (BMP). BMP is a family based Police mainly drawn from Leghari tribe and it is highly under the influence of Farooq Leghari- the candidate for NA 172 and PP245. There are not many voters to vote in remote areas because of the migration in winter but BMP persons always stuff the ballot papers into the ballot boxes by illegal means in the absence of any supervisory arrangements.

Assassination attempt on PPP candidate from NA- 106 Gujrat III

PPP candidate from NA-106 Gujrat III, Kamar Zaman Kaira has submitted a complaint that Chaudhary brothers of Gujrat had formed “Wajahat force” consisting of absconders and criminals to terrorize people to rig the forthcoming polls whose ring leader is Ch. Wajahat Hussain, brother of PML-Q president Ch. Shujaat Hussain.

The absconders of “Wajahat force” are fully equipped with Kalashnikov and other weapons terrorizing people, PPP workers and violating code of conduct blatantly. Mr. Kaira complaint that there was an assassination attempt on his life and his supporters.

The Wajahat Force holds processions with full protocols and lead force of police. Reference “The Nation” dated Dec 12, 2007 Mr. Kaira stated that “before the procession, they fire and announce openly that they would not allow others to run the election campaign in their constituency”.

Electoral fraud in Dera Ismail Khan

District Nazim Dera Ismail Khan, Abdul Rauf is openly campaigning for JUI candidates in collusion with officials from the Dept of Public Health and associated EDO’s of the area. Provincial caretaker minister for revenue Karim Qasuria is openly canvassing for his brother Halim Qasuria, PML-Q candidate from PF-65. Therefore mentioned minister is also influencing Topsiders and Petards in the area. PPP Central Election monitoring Cell asked ECP to immediately stop this blatant act of pre-poll rigging.

PPP workers killed in Naziabad

Three Pakistan Peoples Party workers namely Liqueate Murrain, Bungle Murrain, and Mathura Danger were gunned down and other Hussain Ahmed received bullet injuries in a Naziabad, Baluchistan in the wee hours of Saturday December 8, 2007. Initially reluctant, but later police registered an FIR against 10 nominated and three unidentified attackers. Caretaker Minister Baluchistan Murat Afro and District Nazism Faith Ali Murrain made the plot of the attack. Police is not cooperating and no arrest has so far been made. Additionally, an Army Major Jived has asked / pressed Sadie Murrain to support an independent candidate Zhao Khios on National Assembly seat

Pre-poll rigging complaint from NA-175

A complaint received from district Reaper (NA-175) which alleges large-scale administrative interference in the campaign of the pro-regime candidate whose relatives were in power in the Q league government and who have plenty of connections with the administration/police. This might be a huge question mark at the national level on the performance of the Election Commission/ the caretaker Government.

Pre-poll rigging in PP-248

A complaint received from district Reaper (PP-248) which alleges large-scale administrative interference in the campaign of the pro-regime candidate whose relatives were in power in the Q league government and who have plenty of connections with the administration/police. This might be a huge question mark at the national level on the performance of the Election Commission/ the caretaker Government.

Administrative Interference

A large-scale administrative interference in the campaign of the pro-regime candidate in district Reaper. Whose relatives were in power in the Q league government and who have plenty of connections with the administration/police. District government and officials are completely supporting the Q-league candidate and helping him in running his campaign through utilizing government resources.

Appointment of bias presiding officers and non-accessible polling stations in NA-267

The applicant and candidate from PB-30 Bolan 1, Mir Haroon Khan Raisani has submitted a detailed complaint regarding selective biases over the appointment of polling staff from specific tribes and no officials has been appointed from the areas of Union Council Mithri, Union Council Eiri and UC Ghazi. In district Bolan, the polling staff should be appointed from amongst the officers/officials of the other district because at

present, the polling staff has been appointed in consultation with, will and wish of the candidate of PML-Q Yar Mohammad Rind.

The said candidate Mr Rind has re-changed the location of the above-mentioned polling stations very far from the reach of the voters. The polling stations have been erected at a distance of 15 miles to cause inconvenience of the voters to cast their votes.

Tehsil Sani is the home area of the said candidate of PML-Q and has got a number of factitious votes polled by committing illegal practices in his favor. In the past, the Polling Agents of the opposition candidates were abducted. Therefore on all the poling stations of Tehsil Sani, strong and honest security force be deployed instead of police for free and fair elections.

Whereas training of the polling staff are taking place at Tehsil Headquarters all over the country but particularly in the district of Bolan where the said candidate of PML-Q is contesting elections, the training arrangements has been made at Dhadar instead of Tehsil headquarters like Mach, Haji Shehr and Sani where a large number of officials of polling staff are avoiding training at Dhadar on account of tribal dispute.

It is urgently required that arrangements for training of staff be made at Tehsil Headquarters instead Dhadar and the grievances explained at paragraph 1 to 3 above are removed and directives my kindly be issued to returning officer NA-267 and PB-31 Bolan. This complaint is extremely elaborative and indicative of the trends of pre-poll rigging and ECP asked to take an urgent action to ensure free and fair elections.

Complaint against pre-poll rigging in NA-179 and NA-180

District administration of Muzaffargarh is openly influencing and exerting pressure on voters to side with PML-Q candidates. Loyal and old PPP voters and supporters are being harassed, threatened and actually implicated in false police cases to pressurize to change their loyalties in favor of PML-Q candidates.

In the circumstances, it is impossible to hope for a free, fair and transparent election in NA-180 and NA-179. Police officials, namely Chaudhary Mohammad Ashraf, SHO Thana Khairpoor Sadat Alipur, Munnawar Ahmed Buzdar, SHO Thana Saddar, Tehsil Alipur (Close relative of PML-Q candidate NA-180 Ashiq Gopaang) and Ejaz Hussain Bukhari, SHO Thana bait Mir Hazar, Tehsil Jatoi (close relative PML-Q candidate for NA-179 Basit Bukhari) are openly supporting the PML-Q candidates and violating the electoral code of conduct for Election 2008.

Pre-Poll Rigging in Islamabad

A complaint has been received from Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Chairman Welfare Committee and other voters explaining that many voters' names have been deleted from 2007 voters list whereas these names were present in 2002 voters list. After the draft electronic lists were displayed, they submitted application and filed up the requisite forms for entering their names, but despite thereof there names are conspicuously missing in the final list.

It is a blatant violation of the Electoral Process to deprive the people from their right of vote.

Pre-poll rigging in Bahawalpur by District Nazim

A complaint has been received by Dardar Riaz Dahir, PPP District President Bahawalpur that District Nazim namely Tariq Bashir Cheema is openly supporting and campaigning for the candidate NA-187 Ch. Pervaiz Ellahi. Mr. Dahir has submitted a photograph of the huge signboards displayed on the roads and on the gate of Circuit House Bahawalpur. All the Nazims of District, Tehsil and UCs are openly convincing for Pervaiz Ellahi and Q-league candidates in District Bahawalpur. We are sure that it is not going to be a fair and free election in the presence of District Nazim, because all the Government machinery is under his control and his orders are obeyed by all the officials. It has been informed that District Nazim is deputing his favorable staff for the election duty in the constituencies. All the rules and regulations are being violated.

Pre-poll rigging in Dadu

Central Election Monitoring Cell has received complaints from Zafar Ali Leghari and from PPP candidates Dr. Imran Leghari PS-76, Rafiq Jamali NA-232, Syed Murad Ali Shah PS-73, and Dr Talat Mahessar NA-233. It has been said that DADU DPO Mr. Tipu Sultan is heavily involved in pre-poll rigging at a massive scale. It has been reminded that he was already caught red-handed in previous election and was detained by rangers for six hours. Mr. Tipu Sultan has been posted again as DPO DADU to help former Federal Minister Liaqat Jatoi and his brothers in coming elections on 8th January. Mr. Tipu Sultan is harassing the PPP workers and intimidating PPP supporters unless they commit to vote for Liaqat Jatoi and his brother.

The candidates also complained that Mr. Liaqat Ali Jatoi is manipulating the situation to get the polling officers of his choice by getting his well-known supporters from DRO, RO and AROs to rig the elections as he did in 2002 and 2005 elections as he has managed to retain the same district Administration for his district.

The complainers explained that District Nazim is working for Mr. Jatoi and he is getting full protocol as Federal Minister as DPO has placed dozens of Police Mobiles at his disposal.

The matter is quite serious and requires urgent response as it is creating very bad atmosphere among the people of Dadu especially from PPP supporters. It is very blatant contravention of the electoral code of conduct.

Pre-poll rigging by high ranking government officials in Muzaffargarh

CMC received the complaint that DCO and DPO Muzaffargarh are openly interfering in constituencies No NA 180/179 along with tehsils Alipur and tehsil Jatoi in harassing voters and supporters of PPP candidate Sardar Abdul Qayyum Jatoi. A transparent and fair election in such circumstances is impossible given the level of interference by the Govt. machinery. List of 11 government officials has been sent to ECP for action.

Pre-poll rigging in Jhang

District Nazim Jhang Sahibzada Sultan Hamid is canvassing for three consecutive NA constituencies no's NA-90, NA-91 and NA-87. He is pressurizing Union Council Nazims to support PML-Q candidates. Acting Tehsil Nazim Nazar Hayat is taking instructions from PML-Q candidate from PP 77 Jhang Sheikh Muhammed Yaqub.

District Nazim Jhang is using an official vehicle JG 77 in campaigning for PML-Q candidate Ghulam Bibi Bharwana. This is a blatant violation of electoral laws and norms.

Pre-poll rigging in PB-30 Bolan I and security problem

Nawabzada Haroon Raisani, candidate PB-30 Bolan 1 has launched complaint against the Judicial Magistrate discourteous attitude that's against the Returning Officers of Raisani tribe, who are receiving training in Dhadhar. There, the rival Rind tribe is harassing and threatening the trainee officers. ECP requested to alter the location of the training from Dhadhar to Haji Shehr as there is a security risk involved in it.

Pre-poll rigging

A photograph is sent to ECP which clearly shows and proves the complicity of the administration with the Q- League in Lahore. Such disgraceful things used to happen in the 19th century in decent countries. It is really painful to digest that these things are happening in the 21st century in Pakistan.

It is repeatedly been pointing out to that the caretaker setup appears to lack the credibility as well as the authenticity, which would enable them to oversee free and fair elections as wishfully projected by the regime.

DSP Sehwan Sent on forced leave

PPP Central Election Monitoring Cell received a complaint in which it was mentioned that DSP Sehwan have been sent on forced leave for three months, as he did not give protocol to ex-Chief Minister Arbab Rahim when the latter was going to Larkana.

Police raid on PPP candidate's office

Police raided the office of PPP-16 Candidate Mrs. Nasira Arshad of NA-142 Kasur and 10 to 15 workers were arrested to cause harassment. Shortly thereafter she held a press conference with other PPP leaders to highlight this issue of concern.

District Nazim Supporting his candidate brother

It is reported that Rana Zahid Touseef, who is the District Nazim of Faisalabad has obtained a ticket of Pakistan Muslim League (Q) for his younger brother Rana Arif Touseef. He is very active to get the votes for his brother with the help of the Government funds at his disposal and using full government resources and is responsible for breaking and violating Election laws/rules. ECP was asked to take immediate and appropriate action to stop such blatant high-handedness.

Massive use of banned weapons

Central Election Monitoring Cell received a complaint against grave incident in which PML-Q NA-104 candidate Ch. Wajahat Hussain and candidate for PP-111 Mian Imran Masood that they have massively used the banned weapons before the central election office of Ch. Ahmed Mukhtar of NA-105. ECP was asked to take immediate action against this blatant act that could repudiate the atmosphere of free and transparent.

Pre-Poll rigging in Kot Addu by Government officials

SHO Kot Addu Rafiullah Niazi along with SHO Daira Din Panah and revenue officers of Dera Din Panah Tehsil and District Kot Addu are harassing voters of PPP candidates blatantly. Not only they are pressurizing people to vote for PML-Q candidates but also registering false FIRs in a bid to secure their support using sheer force. The aforementioned officials are also preventing PPP supporters from displaying their candidates' posters and PPP flags.

Electoral irregularities in District MirPur Khas

It has been reported that the Intelligence Commander Sindh, Brigadier Huda held a meeting with the Muslim League (Q) Candidates on 30th Nov at Mirpurkhas where he distributed funds for elections. He further instructed returning Officers to provide pre-stamped ballot papers to PMLQ candidates

Moreover, District Nazima Mirpurkhas, Sugra Junejo held a meeting with Returning Officers and Deputy Returning Officers indicating her choice of selected teachers to be appointed as presiding officers for various polling stations where they would be used to facilitate rigging.

Arbab Ghulam Rahim is also openly indulging in getting favored officials transferred to choice positions. Station House Officer, Mirpurkhas Police Station, Rafiq Syal was sent on a forced leave and Shahanawaz Khaskheli from Badin was appointed in gross defiance of Election laws and the Code of Conduct.

Neutral Caretaker Issue

Mansoor Tariq, the caretaker federal minister of Railways is the brother in-law of Ch. Wajahat Hussain, who is the brother of Ch. Shujahat Hussain chairman Q league and is also related to Ghulam Ahmed Balore. It is very easy to understand the intrigue involved. As nominees at Q league's establishment cannot be neutral caretakers by any definition. Such malpractices by the regime are tantamount to making practical jokes to the people of Pakistan.

Judicial Magistrate biasness

Islamabad, Sunday, 9 December 2007: Tehsil Kot Adu District Muzaffargarh Mr. Imtiaz judicial magistrate is working with Mr. Mian Ilyas Additional District and Session Judge to conduct Election 2008.

Mr. Imtiaz is from Hinjra caste and friend of one of candidates of Q-League who is Ahmed Yar Hinjra in PP-251 and Barrister Malik M. Yousaf being a candidate have objection because his having close ties with Q-League candidate. He cannot expect free and fair conduction of Election, which is also against Election rules.

Objection on the allocation of symbol “Book”

It is understood that the election symbol of "Book" is sought to be allotted to some political Party. The Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians had expressed its strong reservations and objection to the asked for symbol because in the past, such allotment has resulted in an unfair advantage to the recipient of such symbol, in that the political Party concerned equated it with the Holy Quran, and exploited the symbol to its advantage.

The Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians would like to place on record its very strong objection to the allotment of the symbol of "Book" to any political Party and would also request to be heard in person in the matter.

Composition of ECP is still incomplete

Another reminder to immediately appoint members of ECP from NWFP and Sindh was sent to ECP. Members from both of these important provinces have still not been appointed despite Pakistan Peoples Party's repeated recommendations to do so.

Important decisions about elections are being made in provinces with no representation on the ECP. PPP demands that Election Commission of Pakistan should be fully constituted, as per the Constitution so that elections can be conducted in free, fair and transparent manner.

Voters Lists in Electronic Form still not available

The voter's list is a critical tool for not only PPP but also all political parties to identify supporters and get out the vote on Election Day. Election Commission of Pakistan had previously announced that the final voter's lists would be available as soon as the election was called but to date it is still not available in many districts. In addition, you had promised on numerous occasions that ECP will provide voters lists in electronic form. No electronic list has been provided till to date.

In compliance with an order from the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the electronic voters list should be made available immediately to Pakistan Peoples Party and its candidates in hard copy and electronic form and posted on the ECP website.

List of Polling Station is still not available

Another reminder was sent to ECP to provide the constituency wise list of polling stations. Pakistan Peoples Party demands that there should be NO improvised polling stations. The list should be broken down per constituency.

PPP has a considerable concern about the negative impact of ‘ghost’ polling stations. To build confidence in the transparency of the elections, the final list of polling stations should be made available to all contestants and put on the ECP website immediately.

Pre-Poll Rigging in NA-61 Talagang

Dr. Hasnain Naqvi, PPP candidate from NA-61 Talagang has complained that the postings and transfers of three SHOs has been made in his constituency after the announcement of election schedule. Per final code of conduct released by ECP, no posting or transfers of any kind are to be made after the announcement of election schedule. Please take immediate action to address the situation.

Killings in Balochistan

Three of Pakistan Peoples Party’s workers were gunned down, some others received bullet injuries at a PPP camp in the jurisdiction of Baba Kot Tehsil Tambu, District Naseerabad, so far the police are not cooperating and no arrests have been made so far. An army major Javed has asked/pressed Sadiq Umrani to support an independent candidate Zahoor Khoso on National Assembly Seat. ECP was requested to take appropriate action.

Nazim’s Interference

The district nazim calls the shots about elections in Attock as he did when this northern Punjab district elected non-resident Shaukat Aziz to the National Assembly for his elevation to the prime minister ship four years ago. Mr Aziz is not a candidate for the January 8 elections but all front-running candidates of the formerly ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML) for three National Assembly and four provincial assembly seats are running with the nazim's consent and support, giving credence to opposition fears about the role of the PML- dominated local governments. Opposition candidates seem to be in the defensive even before the start of the campaign, hoping visits by their popular leaders like former prime ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif could turn the tables on their opponents. No election banners, placards, hoardings, buntings, flags or advertisements were visible from one to the other end of the city, not very far from the famous Attock Fort where PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif spent some time before being exiled to Saudi Arabia in 2000.

Pre-poll rigging in PS-45 PPP Hyderabad

Mr. Pasha Kazi is a candidate of PPP (PS-45 Hyderabad) and is contesting the forthcoming Elections from PS-45 Hyderabad. He has complained to the Central Monitorial Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, the state of affairs prevailing in the said District.

The sitting District Nazim Hyderabad, Mr. Kanwar Naveed Jamil is fragrantly and completely violating the code of conduct set forth by the Election commission of Pakistan. The said Nazim in connivance with the police officials of the aforementioned District has illegally ordered the transfer of 17 S.H.O's of the District in order to rig the forthcoming elections. Consequently, all of the 17 S.H.O's who are die hard supporters of MQM were transferred at the same time, which is a brazen violation of law and offensive to law.

Senator Latif Khosa paid CEC's attention toward this misconduct of the code of election and asked CEC to take strict action on the issue to ensure the free and fair election in the constituency.

Misuse of authority in PP-223 (Kot Addu/ Muzaffargarh)

Senator Sardar Latif Khosa drew CEC attention toward the misuse of authority and nepotism in the election of PP-253 (Kot Addu/ Muzaffargarh) by the candidate of PML (Q), whose name is Murtaza Raheem Khar as he is a nephew of Rafiq Khar, Tehsil Nazim Kot Addu and the brother of a Naib Tehsildar Mustapha Karim Khar. These both are using their authorities and running the election campaign of PML (Q) candidate Murtaza Rahim Khar. The state machinery and funds are being lavishly expended to manipulate and rig the elections.

That was brought in to the notice of CEC to take immediate action against the misuse of the Government official power and after denuding them of their official assignments enforce symbol of transparency in the electoral process.

Ejaz-ul-Haq and Pervaiz Elahi using Government resources and announcing projects and schemes from government funds.

A complaint has been received in the PPP central secretariat's Election Monitoring Cell from Chaudhary Shaukat Mehmood Basra advocate, PPP candidate for PP-283, R/O Basra House Haroon Abad District Bahawalnagar.

In his complain, he mentioned that Mr. Ejaz-ul-Haq, Former federal minister is announcing different projects and schemes on behalf of government in the company of Tehsil Nazim Hadi Yaseen, Chaudhary Ghulam Murtaza MPA, Local Tehsildar and SHOs and other government officials. Moreover, some people portraying themselves agencies employees are supporting Ejaz-ul-Haq by saying that he is the winning candidate. The government employees are distributing Hajj Quotas and jobs on the recommendation of Ejaz-ul-Haq.

The complainer has informed that Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi submitted papers for PP-282 and he is using the full government machinery and protocol as if he is the current chief minister.

Senator Sardar Latif Khosa requested CEC that government officers may kindly be stopped from interfering the electoral process and strict action should be taken against Tehsil Nazim and government officials who are involved in the misuse of the government machinery.

The complainer has requested to suspend the Tehsildar Haroonabad, SHOs Haroonabad and XEN wapda. Please take the necessary action under intimation to this cell and obliged.

Complaint against Rana Hayat and Tariq Naqai NA-142 Kasur

Ms. Nasira Arshad is a candidate of PPPP and is contesting the forthcoming Elections from NA-142, District Kasur. She has complained to the Central Monitorial Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, the state of affairs prevailing in the said District. As per her grievance, Mr. Tariq Naqai and Mr. Rana Hayat belonging to the PML are blatantly utilizing the state machinery/resources to rig the Elections. Both the aforementioned persons are openly threatening the loyalist supporters of PPPP of dire consequences and all persecutory threats are being unleashed to brow beat them into submission. Not only that, false cases are being registered against the supporters of PPPP on trumped up charges, and several of them have also been arrested. All the aforesaid tactics are not only violation of the code of conduct but also offensive to law and call for remedial action at your end.

It is therefore requested that due notice of this grave misconduct be taken; otherwise the Elections may be reduced to a mere farce if this continues.

Pre-Poll Rigging report from District president Layyah

PPP's Central Election Monitoring cell received a complaint from Abdul Majeed PPP president layyah, in which he mentioned about the misuse of government vehicles by E.DO, District Nazim and Tehsils Nazims for the election campaign of PML-Q candidate. Secondly, E.D.O and Nazims are compelling masses to vote for PML-Q candidate on the name of development funds. This issue has been repeatedly brought into the notice of CEC that financial resources of the Government are being abused/misused by the local Government officials at the behest of the regime. Senator Sardar Latif Khosa urged CEC to take serious action to stop such mal practices.

Jobs being sold to win the voters

Pakistan Peoples Party's Central election Monitoring cell sent the news item (Dawn) which correctly projects the type of malpractices used by the regime to undermine the chances of the forthcoming polls being 'fair and free'. CEC asked to take serious notice to nip the evil in the bud so that the general political environment can improve; otherwise the country will be facing serious turmoil which would be in nobody's interest.

Ex-Chief Minister Sindh still demands protocol

DSP Sehwan was sent on forced leave for three months for not giving protocol to Arbab Rahim when he was going to Larkana.

Caretaker PM's mother working for grandson's campaign

The PPP's electoral contestant from NA-208 has complained to the EC that District Nazim Jacobabad was in "blatant violation of the ECP rules and Code of Conduct by using official machinery and resources to influence and threaten the voters of his constituency". Aijaz Jakhrani, the candidate from NA-208, said in a letter to the CEC that the district Nazim was visiting the villages with official protocol. "She is announcing development schemes to influence the voters and have her grandson elected," Jakhrani alleged in the letter, copies of which were also sent to the provincial election.

PMLQ friendly Care taker setup blows away impartiality claim

It is interesting to note the PMLQ friendly appointments in care taker setup. Consider the appointment of Mr. Mansoor Tariq as the Federal Care taker Minister for Railway. It may be of interest to know that he is the brother-in law of Chaudhry Wajahat Hussain (brother of Chaudhry Shujaat) and the nephew of Ghulaam Ahmed Bilour (An ANP candidate fro NA-1 Peshawar one and also responsible for Qamar Abbas's murder). Bilour's son is contesting against Zahir Shah on PF-2. This speaks volumes about the Pervez Musharraf's claim of having free and fair elections.

Misuse of Authority by Dr. Amjad in NA-49

Dr Amjad, Caretaker Federal minister for Provincial Coordination is announcing development schemes in the vicinity of NA-49. Earth Moving equipment is being extensively used for the construction of roads and paving of streets in a bid to pressurize voters in villages Pehnot, Pind Begwal, Pulair.

Dr. Amjad is announcing all development schemes as a part of a package by PML Q. The Minister is violating all electoral laws manifestly. The same has been conveyed to your office umpteen times but the Minister remains adamant to shred all electoral rules to smithereens.

Chief Commissioner, Assistant Director Local Govt. and the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad was advised to immediately put an end to this practice and seize all development activity in the area until after Jan 8, 2008.

Misuse of authorities and aiding of PML-Q candidate by Tehsildar

Imtiaz Janjua, Tehsildar posted in Islamabad for the last ten years in gross violation of the Revenue Manual is actively supporting and running the electoral campaign of PML-Q candidates in the constituencies NA 48-49 which falls within his jurisdiction.

Imtiaz Janjua is blatantly influencing Patwaris in both the constituencies in violation of the Electoral Rules.

CEC therefore requested that the aforesaid Tehsildar may immediately be removed to ensure impartiality in the constituencies.

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Pre-Poll Rigging by ex-government officials

Pakistan Peoples Party's Central election Monitoring cell sent the press cuttings/clippings of the malpractices of the people who were in power till the caretakers took over and who have left their proxies to exploit the official machinery for their benefit. Such misconduct

would make serious free and fair election impossible. Cuttings included daily “Musawat”, daily “Inqalab” and daily “Jang”, sent to the ECP.

Pre-Poll rigging report by FAFEN

Member PPP’s Central Election Monitoring cell I.M. Mohsin received a detail report of misconduct and rigging by FAFEN. He sent that detail report of malpractices by ex-government officials, who have left their proxies to exploit the official machinery for their own benefit to the CEC and asked him to take serious action to ensure the free and fair election otherwise such misconduct would make free and fair election impossible.

Murder of Chakar Khan Jakhrani

Islamabad December 3, 2007: Former Prime Minister and Chairperson of the Pakistan Peoples Part Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto has condemned the murder of PPP activist Chakar Khan Jakhrani, by police in Jacobabad. PPP leader Aijaz Jakhrani complained to the Chairperson that the police raided the village Bachal Garhi in Jacobabad and shot dead Chakar Khan Jakhrani, 25, and injured Mohammad Nawaz Jakhrani. He complained that DPO Muneer Khuhro had threatened Jakhrani family including him asking them not to contest elections as caretaker Prime Minister Mohammad Mian Soomro's sister Maleeha Malik is contesting from the same constituency. However, the Jakhranis told the police that they were with the PPP and had won the seat in 2002 general elections and again were contesting on PPP ticket.

In a statement today Mohtarma Bhutto said that it was the job of caretaker government to provide a neutral electoral field. Instead it was abusing the administration to achieve electoral goals contrary to its mandate.

Mohtarma said an Independent Election Commission would immediately probe the matter and order arrest of those involved in the murder of young Chakar Khan Jakhrani.

She said it was tragic that no respect was being paid to the sanctity of Human life.

Mohtarma Bhutto also condoled with the family of the victim. She also prayed for early recovery of the injured Nawab Jakhrani.

The Chairperson also directed the Party leadership to visit the families of victims and offer all possible assistance.

Pre-Poll Rigging in District Muzaffargarh

Mr. Abdul Qayoom Jatui, Ex. MNA from District Muzaffargarh has complained to the Central Monitoring Cell of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, the state of affairs prevailing in District Muzaffargarh. He has reported that the entire administrative machinery of the District including Police, Revenue and Magistracy have teamed up and

indulging in activities which are detrimental to the interests of the PPPP. False cases are being registered against the supporters of PPPP on trumped up charges. A far more serious and outrageous complaint is the provision of 3 different voters lists. One of these lists has been so manipulated that the numbers of voters have been shown to be less in areas where PPPP commands majority. All their actions, as a matter of fact are tantamount to pre-poll rigging and smack of extreme highhandedness and partiality.

The story of District Rahim Yar Khan is no different from that of District Muzaffargarh. Makhdoom Shahabuddin Ex MNA has reported that the District Administration including DCO and SSP have ganged up with the PML (Q) candidates and are openly trying to influence the voters to vote for the PML (Q) candidates. The DCO has had the audacity to openly call such meetings along with the SSP for the fulfillment of their objective.

Provincial Ministers, Nazims Supporting Candidates

Pir Syed Muhammad Bachall Shah Jillani, PPP Candidate from PS-30 filed a complain that the district Nazim's and Taluka Nazim's are very much involved to support the Functional Muslim League candidates.

Likewise, five Provincial Ministers, who belong to Functional Muslim League are also supporting FML candidate by visiting them with full protocol.

Jobs Being Sold In Exchange For Votes

By Fareedulah Chaudhry

LAYYAH, Nov 30: Over 300 jobs in different pay scales in some district departments, which were advertised months ago, are now being filled when general elections are on the threshold and local authorities are allegedly trying to accommodate only those candidates who will vote to their kith and kin during the Jan 8 elections, sources told Dawn on Friday.

Though the district officials deny the accusations, some candidates have termed the process “bribe” to win more number of votes and called this whole episode “pre-polls rigging”. They have also appealed to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to take notice of this illegal practice and take action against the local political as well as administrative authorities.

According to the sources, the recruitment process in education, literacy and health departments, which remained stalled for many months for the reasons best known to the authorities concerned, had resumed abruptly and District Nazim Malik Ghulam Haider Thind was trying to get more number of candidates adjusted from areas falling in constituency PP-266 from where his daughter, Razia Begum, was contesting the elections on PML-Q ticket.

The Thind family to which the district nazim belongs is already holding key political as well as administrative slots along with Jhakkar family and elites of both these families are trying to manipulate the future set up by misusing their current portfolios.

The sources said that jobs were being “sold” to those aspirants only who would give an undertaking that they and their families would vote to the district nazim’s ‘desired’ candidates.

The sources said that a meeting of health, education and literacy EDOs was held on Wednesday (Nov 28) in health EDO’s office, which was chaired by district nazim in which recruitments were finalised. The sources claimed that the employees of the EDO’s office were told to leave the office before their scheduled time to keep the secrecy.

The source added that a new dispatch register was prepared to accommodate the candidates recommended ‘afresh’ by the district Nazim. The final list contained a large number of candidates who were residents of the areas falling in PP-266 constituency, the sources maintained.

The education department had advertised 136 vacancies for various slots in BS-4 to BS-16 and certain candidates had been short listed after interviews in August. Incidentally, a new dispatch register was prepared again on the directives of the district Nazim to accommodate the candidates recommended by him.

The source said that 36 posts were being filled through special quota while the remaining 100 were distributed among the district Nazim and his cronies.

The district Nazim would be able to accommodate 30 candidates of his choice, PML-Q ticket holders Bhadar Ahmad Khan Sehar, Shahabuddin Khan Sehar and Malik Niaz Ahmad Jhakhar, 13 each, and Noor Nabi Jhakhar and Malik Allah Bux Samtiah, PML-Q candidates for PP-265 and PP-263, five each.

According to the sources, vacancies were being filled for the establishment of new schools in the literacy department in an identical fashion.

Health EDO Dr Fazal Karim said that all the recruitments were being made according to the policy laid down by the provincial government. He admitted that the district Nazim had visited his office but denied that he had chaired any meeting. He also denied that employees of his office were told to leave the office before expected time.

Education EDO Hafiz Abdul Wahid Aulakh maintained that all recruitments would be made strictly on merit and according to the Punjab government’s policy.

Literacy EDO Muhammad Yousaf Khan (who is also brother of district Nazim’s wife) was not available at his office for his comment. The district Nazim was also not available for his comment. The Nazim’s telephone operator, Ghulam Hussain, gave a cell phone number, which was also found switched off.

Mahar Fazal Husain Sumra, a former MPA and Razia's rival candidate, urged the CEC to take action on this blatant violation of election laws. Iftikhar Babar Khan, a PPP candidate for PP-266, slated this trade of jobs in exchange of votes. He also appealed to the CEC to intervene and stop this politically motivated practice going on unchecked.

PPP Candidate from NA-265 Kidnapped

Islamabad, 26 November 2007: Pakistan Peoples Party has complained to the Chief Election commissioner that its candidate from NA-265 (Dera Bugti) Ahmed Jan Kalper was kidnapped on his way to file his nomination papers and its candidate from NA-267 (Kachi) has not been able to file his nomination paper for want of security for his protection, which he had specifically requested a few days ago in view of the serious threat to his life.

The Secretary General Pakistan Peoples party Parliamentarians, Raja Pervez Ashraf in two separate letters to the Chief Election Commission, wrote, "This is to bring to your notice that Mr. Ahmad Jan Kalper who. Intends to contest election from NA-265 (Dera Bugti) was kidnapped today, around 4:00 pm when he was on his way to file the nomination papers in Dera Bugti.

"It is requested that you may kindly take notice of this outrageous incident and impress upon the law & order agencies to recover Mr. Ahmad Jan Kalper before any harm is caused to him. Furthermore, unless his recovery takes place, he shall not be able to file his nomination papers for which the entire responsibility shall be laid at the doorstep of the administration.

"I May add that in case the recovery of Mr. Kalper takes time, then his papers may be accepted from his representatives who shall approach the Election Commission for the purpose. The Provincial Election Commission may please be advised appropriately."

In the second letter, Raja Pervez Ashraf wrote, "I wish to draw your kind attention to a very serious matter in which PPPP's candidate Nawab Mohammad Aslam Raisani who intends to contest election on NA-267 (Kachi) has not been able to file his nomination papers with the Election Commission for want of security for his protection, which he had specifically requested a few days ago in view of the serious threat to his life. The request of Nawab Mohammad Raisani has not been granted so far with the result that he has been left for filing the nomination papers, if adequate security is not provided to his person, he shall not be able to do the needful.

"It is therefore requested that the Provincial Government may be

directed to do the same without further loss of time to enable him to file his nomination papers. In case this is not possible, at such a short notice then the authorities in Quetta may be directed to accept his papers."

Makhdoom Amin Fahim Condemns Kidnapping of PPP Candidates By State Agencies.

Calls for inquiry, immediate release of victims

Islamabad November 26, 2007: Vice Chair of the Pakistan Peoples Party Makhdoom Amin Fahim has condemned the kidnapping of Sarfarz Bugti and Jan Muhammad Bugti sons of Mir Ghulam Qadir Bugti allegedly by an intelligence agency and demanded inquiry into the incident and immediate recovery of the victims from his captors.

PPP activist Mir Ghulam Qadir Bugti today complained to the Party that his sons Sarfarz Ahmad Bugti and Jan Muhammad Bugti candidate for a provincial assembly seat were kidnapped from his village Bekr in Dera Bugti.

Sarfarz Bugti was kidnapped last week when he arrived in his village to oversee preparations for the forthcoming elections. He was later charged under MPO and sent to jail.

PPP candidate for the provincial assembly Jan Muhammad Bugti was today kidnapped by security agencies from the office of the Election Commission in Dera Bugti as he was trying to file his nomination papers.

Ghulam Qadir Bugti also said that he had been warned by the agencies to stay away from the area. His sons were kidnapped so that they could neither take part nor mobilise support to the Party in the coming elections in case the Party decided to take part in the elections, he said.

In a statement today Makhdoom Amin Fahim demanded a thorough probe into alleged kidnapping of Sarfaraz Bugti and Jan Muhammad Bugti, their release and punishment to those responsible for it.

He called upon the CEC to intervene in the matter if the electoral exercise to be lent a semblance of credibility.

He recalled that the NDI mission that recently visited Pakistan had expressed grave apprehensions about how the intelligence agencies manipulating the results of elections through coercion and intimidation and had called for an end to the role of intelligence agencies in the elections.

Makhdoom Amin Fahim said that it appeared that as soon the election schedule was announced the agencies had become active yet again to manipulate the results of the polls. He called for an immediate end to the over and covert role of intelligence agencies in the run up to elections.

"Electoral exercise has already been made farcical by the imposition of emergency, a subservient Election Commission, the offices of Army chief and president still being held by one person, improvised polling stations, existence of mayors controlling guns and funds, gagging the media and throwing behind the bars thousands of political workers, lawyers and civil society activists".

Kidnappings and manipulations by intelligence agencies had turned the already farcical electoral exercise into a comical one, she said.

PPP Writes To ECP about Violation of COC

Islamabad, 28 November 2007: Pakistan Peoples Party has drawn the attention of the Election Commission of Pakistan towards violation of Code of Conduct for Elections by the head of Pakistan Muslim League (Q) Ch. Shujaat Hussain.

In a letter the press Spokesperson of the Pakistan Peoples Party, former Senator Farhatullah Babar, addressed to the Secretary ECP wrote, "I wish to bring to your notice the reports that the President PML (Q) Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain will be distributing allotment letters among journalists in the Punjab House today (Wednesday Nov 28, 2007). While allotment of plots to journalists is welcome, the distribution of allotment letters by the head of a political party is against the Code of Conduct issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan for the political parties."

He further wrote, "The allotment letters can be sent to the journalists by post instead of illegally using the occasion to advance the political objectives of a political party. Kindly therefore immediately stop Chaudhry Shujat Hussain or any other political person from personally distributing the allotment letters to the journalists and the same be distributed by post using the normal official procedure."

Meanwhile the PPP has strongly condemned the inability of the Election Commission of Pakistan in stopping Ch. Shujaat Hussain from violating the Election Code of Conduct. It is worth mentioning that the Secretary of the Election Commission was telephoned and the letter was faxed to him in the morning but the PML (Q) President was not stopped as he

proceeded ahead with the distribution of allotment letters later in the afternoon.

The PPP said that the election exercise has lost credibility as the Election Commission was not independent and could not enforce its own Code of Conduct, which has been reduced to a joke.

Mir. Bugti complains about kidnapping of his son

I had submitted application dated 24-11-2007, stating that my son Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti who was to submit his nomination papers from NA-265 and PB Dera Bugti was detained on November the 18th, and was henceforth being detained by the Barkhan Police and lodged in their Jail. I had solicited necessary action for facilitating the submission of nomination papers by him before the returning officers. In response to my written request, immediate fax/UMS letter dated 26-11-2007 was issued at your end to the Chief Secretary, Government of Baluchistan, Quetta. Notwithstanding, my son was neither released nor taken before the returning officers for presenting his nomination papers to contest the forthcoming elections from the aforestated NA/PB seats. This was maliciously done to favor the opposite candidates contesting against my son specially Mr. Tariq Hussain against the latter seat whose bogus testimonials have been accredited as none has been allowed to file nomination papers against him..

It is therefore requested that my son Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti's nomination papers from NA-265 and PB Dera Bugti may kindly be entertained and he may be directed to be produced before the Returning Officers as and when required and thus allowed to contest elections.

Pre-Poll rigging by former Chief Ministers and their appointees DCO's/DPO's etc.

The former Sindh Chief Minister Arbab Ghulam Rahim summoned the meeting of DCO's/DPO's of the districts comprising the province of Sindh and held long parlays in parting instructions for facilitating candidates of PML-Q and the allied parties of the defunct government. Since all such officers had been specially appointed by the previous provincial government in sheer violation of the service rules and notwithstanding their qualifications to hold such offices, they are prone to dance to their tunes. Such subservient bureaucracy is likely to play havoc with the people of the province. The level playing field essential for free and fair elections is being completely overturned. The code of conduct issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan itself is being violated with impunity.

In Punjab, the former Chief Minister, Mr. Pervez Elahi has identically summoned the bureaucracy in the above tenor and issued identical instructions to bail out candidate

nominated by PML-Q. Such blatant violation of Election rules corrodes the transparency of Elections and cuts to the roots of democracy.

The District/Tehsil/Union Nazims are equally utilizing all their resources and their machinery at their disposal has been thrown in to rigging the elections. Repeated complaints with specific examples have already been notified to your good self report requisitioned obviously would not provide the true facts as the returning Officers/Presiding Officers are equally involved/partisan and have specifically been designated for the purpose of manipulating favorable results in favor of the King's Party. Some of the specific instances relate to the complaint against Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed, former federal minister, Dr. Amjad, present federal minister for provincial coordination, Mr. Nisar Memon, sitting federal information minister of the caretaker government, Mr. Javed Ikhlas, District Nazim Rawalpindi, Ch. Ameer Hussain, former speaker National Assembly, and in Baluchistan too the police/agencies had abducted, confined, and detained candidates of the PPP who were thereby prevented from even submitting their nomination papers.

It is over again requested that appropriate action against the aforementioned sitting/former government officers may be immediately taken and all remedial steps be initiated to prevent further damage to the electoral process which is becoming farcical and selective rather than elective by the people of Pakistan.

Complaint Against District Nazim, Rawalpindi.

Mr. Qasim Ikhlas S/o Raja Javed Ikhlas, District Nazim Rawalpindi is contesting Elections from NA 51 on PML-Q ticket. The said district Nazim with all his official protocol visited the constituency and is inaugurating the Election offices of his son Qasim Ikhlas. He inquired the requirements and promised number of development schemes in the area canvassed for his son. He also promised to provide employment opportunities to the people of the area. With the heavy police force and pomp and show displayed the district Nazim is influencing the voters. He is constantly using all the state resources/machinery to rig the Elections. The polling stations and the staff to carry out the electoral process according to him are his choicest places/people, he is openly threatening my loyalist supporters of dire consequences and all persecutory threats are being unleashed to brow beat them into submission. All the aforesaid tactics are not only violative of the code of conduct but also offensive to law and call for immediate remedial action at your end.

It is therefore requested that Mr. Javed Ikhlas be denuded of his official transport/staff and action under the law for subverting the electoral process be taken against both the candidate Qasim Ikhlas and his father Raja Javed Ikhlas, District Nazim Rawalpindi.

Caretaker Minister's Daughter is PMLQ Ticket Holder

According to The News, Caretaker Information Minister Nisar Memon's daughter, Marvi Memon, has been nominated for PML-Q's National Assembly ticket. Marvi, who earlier served in the ISPR, is presently the adviser investment in the Board of Investment.

Postings in Sindh to Ensure Rigging

KARACHI, November 27: Former Federal Minister and member CEC of the Pakistan Peoples Party Nawab Yousuf Talpur has raised objection over the posting of a close aide of former Chief Minister Arbab Ghulam Rahim as District Returning Officer in Tharparker and demanded the Election Commission of Pakistan to immediately replace him with an honest, neutral and full-fledged District and Sessions Judge.

In a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner, he said Zaheer Ahmed Khan was Additional Secretary in Law Department during Arbab Rahim's tenure as Chief Minister and it was Arbab who got him posted as DRO Tharparker to rig the elections on the shoulders of the Election Commission of Pakistan.

He said that Zaheer Ahmed Khan was posted as Additional District and Sessions judge in Tharparker after the announcement of the election schedule. It is interesting that Zaheer Ahmed Khan was allotted a room in MPA Hostel on the directives of Arbab Ghulam Rahim.

Nawab Yousuf Talpur said that Arbab Ghulam Rahim was using all the state resources and machinery to rig the elections, as he knew that he or any of his family members couldn't win the elections without the support of state machinery.

He also condemned the chasing of PPP candidate Imam Ali Samejo from NA-230 and his relative Sher Khan Samejo by some agency people and asked the Election Commission to take notice of it.

The PPP leader also pointed out to the shameful discrimination in Diplo at the office of Returning Officer where Arbab Ghulam Rahim, accompanied by DCO and DPO was given CM's protocol while PPP candidates were forced to park their vehicles at distant place.

DHANDHLI NAMAS – RIGGING CHARGESHEETS

PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY
CENTRAL SECRETARIAT KARACHI
ANTI.RIGGING CELL

DHANDLI NAMA December 08, 2007

DISTRICT GHOTKI

In retaliation to case of fake educational certificate filed by Ahmad Yar Shar government candidate in PS 5 the agricultural farm of PPP candidate Jam Mehtab Ali in Dharki was attacked by 70 armed men last night. The staff at the farm was badly beaten up and the attackers took away farm animals, 2 motorcycles and Rs 113, 000 in cash. Anti Rigging Cell has complained to the Chief Election Commissioner and the Provincial Election Authority and appealed to them to take action.

DISTRICT UMAR KOT

In blatant violation of election rules government candidate Muzaffar Hussain Shah from PS 59 continues to lead political rallies accompanied with police escorts. Police escort and those in the procession have made it a routine to attack pro PPP elements en-route.

On the 5th ASI Qurban Rao accompanying the government candidate badly beat up a shopkeeper who was playing a PPP songs cassette. On the 7th when Musaffar Hussain Shah was touring Sabo UC when Rahul Mangrio and 3 others in his rally attacked PPP sympathizers who had hoisted PPP flags. PPP supporters Anwar Pangrion and Haider Pangrion were so badly injured that they had to be admitted to Umar Kot hospital.

Dhoro Naro police station refused to register Bachal Pangrion who had approached them with the complaint of the incident. Moreover, a police party came from Khipro and arrested Bachal Pangrion under a false case.

DISTRICT KASHMORE

Returning Officer and Assistant Sessions Judge Mr. Jan Mohammad Kalhoro who had rejected false result count in the last elections has been transferred.

Also transferred is Mr. Abdul Aziz Chachar EDO education. It is understood that Mr. Chachar refused to issue fake appointment letters for teachers on the insistence of the candidates of the Regime.

PPP workers returning from the courts after the scrutiny of papers of PPP candidate Mir Balakh Sher Mazari were attacked by gangs working for the official candidate. Instead of registering complaint Police registered false case against 12 PPP workers and arrested them

DISTRICT MIRPURKHAS

Nazim Mirpur Khas Ghulam Dastgir used the Zila Council building to hold a MQM workers meeting where the names of the MQM candidates were announced. Officials were in attendance to look after the workers and to carry out other errands.

MQM was in full fury in the Christian Colony of Mirpur Khas where the bulk of the sanitary workers working for the Mirpur Khas municipality live. UC Nazim Mohammad Hanif and Councilor Shoukat Majeed accompanied by MQM worker are harassing the resident and threatening the sanitary workers with termination of services if they vote for PPP.

DISTRICT QAMBAR

Sardar Khan Chandio the PML (Q) candidate in NA 206 has got the following officials posted in the constituency all of whom are working actively for him.

Dr. Shah Baig Chandio as EDO Health.

Imdad Chandio. XEN Buildings.

Manzoor Chandio. Investigation Officer, Qambar.

Sikandar Chandio DDO (Revenue) who also has the charge of EDO. His office issues the no dues certificates to candidates.

Zamir Abro TMO, Municipal Administration. Zamir Abro goes around with ladders removing PPP flags and hoisting PML (Q) flags and banners.

Irshad Ahmad Kumarani, Mukhtiar Kar, Miro Khan.

Altaf Tunio, DDO (Roads). Altaf Tunio has released 30 crores and is making payments to his favorite 'contractors'. He is also moving around with a PML (Q) flag on his official car. .

Prominent officials who are on protocol duty of Sardar Khan Chandio are Subhaio Khan TPO EWarah and Massan Khan SHO Warah.

KARACHI

PPP candidate from PS 97 Babu Abdul Khaliq Mirza in an application addressed to the Election Commission of Pakistan has pointed out the rule that polling stations could either be situated in government buildings and where no such premises existed only on public property.

Babu Abdul Khaliq has given a list of 36 polling stations situated in NA 242 & 243 and PS 97 which have been situated in private buildings and has requested that the same may be shifted to government premises.

DHANDLI NAMA DECEMBER 12, 2007

GHOTKI

The appeal of PPP candidate from PS 5 Jam Mehtab Ali against the nomination papers of PML (Q) candidate Ahmad Yar Shar has been upheld by the Election Tribunal of the High Court. Jam Mehtab Ali had challenged the correctness of educational certificates of the PML (Q) candidate. The Tribunal based its judgment on the certificate given by the concerned university that the certificates were bogus.

However, no action has been taken by the authorities on the FIR filed by Jam Mehtab for the attack of armed people on his farm. 70 to 100 armed persons had attacked the farm of Jam Mehtab in Dharki, severely injured the staff of the farm and caused losses of about 2 million.

The discredited PML (Q) candidate is giving open threats of loss of life and property and these threats are being printed in newspapers (KAWISH and KHABROON). Jam Mehtab has sent 2 complaints to the Election Commission asking them to take note of these threats. However, no action has been taken as yet on these complaints.

KARACHI

In the last bye-election on NA250 record rigging and strong arms tactics were employed by the ruling MQM, which gave them many times the votes in a bye-election than they had received in general elections on this seat. Innovative methods of rigging included asking many of the presiding officers to stay home while their "duties" at the polling stations were performed by Halaf Yaftas of the MQM. When the PPP candidate asked the presiding officer to show his National Identity Card, he was attacked by armed MQM workers inside the polling station. His car was also badly damaged.

Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig PPP candidate from this constituency has given a list of 47 polling stations located in PS 112 and another 19 polling stations located in PS 113 where large scale rigging and violence had taken place in the bye-elections, to the Returning Officer. In his application Dr. Baig has said that there is a danger of heavy rigging and violence at

these polling stations this time too. He has asked for additional force to check blatant violation of election rules and the use of strong-arm methods

DHANDLI NAMA December 14, 2007

Election Commission of Pakistan has taken notice of incidents mentioned in the daily 'Dhandli Namas'. Mr. S. Nasir Abbas, Deputy Election Commissioner (Sindh) Karachi has written to the District & Session Judges/ District Returning Officers of districts Ghotki/Umerkot/Kashmore/Mirpurkhas/Qambar/Karachi (West) requesting them to deploy army at sensitive polling stations in these districts. Copies of the letter has been sent to the PPP Anti-Rigging Cell and to the Election Commission officials in these districts.

In their reply to the Election Commission the PPP Anti-Rigging Cell has pointed out that it was of utmost importance that excesses and violations of law were checked now during the election campaign to minimize the need to deploy force at the polling stations on the polling day. Failure to do so will encourage the violators of law and entire areas and constituencies would become 'sensitive'.

It is hoped that the story of elections 97 shall not be repeated again when the army deployed at polling stations had been instructed to rig the elections and thousands of votes were stuffed into ballot boxes during the Iftar and Trawah gap in counting.

KARACHI

PPP candidate from PS 97 Babu Abdul Khaliq Mirza has sent a list of 73 polling stations in PS 97, NA – 242 and 243 Karachi (West) which are located in private buildings, where as government buildings are available in the respective areas. In front of the names of each of these polling stations Babu Abdul Khaliq has also given the names of alternate polling stations, which confirm to the requirements of relevant election laws.

At least 4 of the polling stations where voters of PS 97 are registered to vote are not situated in PS 97. They are located in adjacent constituency PS 96. Another 4 are situated at great distance from the blocks of their registered voters, while nearby places exist and have been pointed out. In gross violation of Section 8 (4) of the representation of Peoples Act 1976, three of the polling stations actually belong to office bearers of MQM who have put up their candidate in this constituency.

DISTRICT LARKANA

Ex Provincial Minister Altaf Unnar who is contesting elections on PML (Q) ticket from PS 35 and NA 205 Larkana continues to enjoy all protocol and more of a provincial minister. The number of police mobiles in his entourage has been raised from one to four after PPP wrote to the Election authorities (DRO) objecting to he presence of a police mobile in his escort.

District Nazim Larkana Mohammad Bux Arijo is running the campaign of Altaf Unnar with total support in men and vehicles and resources of the District government. Ten days back Nazim Arijo gave a grant of 2.5 million for making roads and galis in village Santo. In village Khiwaro the Nazim has started laying electricity lines although there is no electricity in the entire area.

More than 40 important persons of village Madohu, Tehsil Bakrani joined the PPP last week, which previously had supported Altaf Unnar. As a punishment a raid was conducted on the village by SPO Inayat Ullah Mahar and SHO Gul Sher Meher who insulted and beat up old PPP worker of the village Ahmad Bux Chandio in front of the entire village. The Charge against Ahmad Bux Chandio was that he had influenced the supporters of Altaf Unnar to join PPP. He was thrown in a police mobile and was taken to the village of Altaf Unnar Ali Pur, where he was beaten again and threatened with dire consequences if he did not support PML (Q) candidate Altaf Unnar.

Pakistan Peoples Party has moved an application to prosecute Inayat Ullah Mehar and Gulsher Mehar in the Court of the District and Sessions Judge.

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DHANDLI NAMA DECEMBER 16, 2007

DISTRICT SANGHAR

PPP worker Asif Leghari was shot at and seriously injured by the sons of Dost Ali Nizamani of PML (Q) near Khatoon Fatema High School Jumrao Road. Yesterday Haji Abdul Karim Leghari a senior of the Leghari clan had announced joining the PPP along with his entire village. Asif Leghari belonging to the village had hoisted a PPP flag on his motorcycle, when he was stopped around 2 o'clock by the Nizamani, who demanded that Asif remove the flag. On his refusal he was shot point blank.

Asif Leghari has been rushed to Nawab Shah in a serious condition. The police are refusing to register a complaint against the attackers.

The role of the police has been highly partial in Sanghar. Police mobiles are routinely seen taking down PPP flags and hoisting PML (Q) flags in their place. For the last few days the situation had been deteriorating every day. Incidents of taking down PPP flags, attacks on offices, even firing have been taken place and are being reported to the Police and Election Authorities but no action has been taken on them.

In response to the Election Commission's decision to post army at the polling stations in Sanghar and other districts the Anti-Rigging Cell had pointed out that corrective actions had to be taken now in order to prevent any unfortunate incident before hand. Unfortunately the administration is openly siding with PML (Q) and thus the unfortunate firing on Asif Leghari.

DISTRICT KHAIRPUR

Groups consisting of followers of Pir Sahib Pagara have practically taken over Tehsil Nara which comes in NA 216 and PS 31. PPP candidates on these seats are Sajid Ali Bhanban and Zahid Ali Bhanban respectively, while the PML (Q) candidates are Pir Sibgat Ullah Shah (the son of Pir Pagara) on the National Assembly seat and Dr. Rafiq on the Provincial Assembly seat. Large scale rigging had been done by PML (Q) on these seats in the last elections. Open threats are being given by the government party that the same will be done in these elections too. However, there are indications that much more may be done this time than what was done in the last elections.

UC Jibbo and UC Khiwari are two UCs which consist of large tracts of desert with very sparse population. A total of 39 polling stations in these UCs exist on paper only. In the last elections while the voting percentage in thickly populated areas of Tehsil Faiz Ganj and Thari Mirwah remained around 35% on the average, the voting average on these non-existing polling stations in desert area was above 95 % with some polling stations recording 98 % voting percentage.

No action has been taken on the application given to the Election Commission by the PPP candidates regarding these 'invisible' polling stations. The PPP candidates had requested the election authorities to take a tour of the constituency and kindly point out the location of these polling stations.

In the last elections the polling staff sent from Khairpur for these polling stations was taken to safe houses and kept there for 2 days as 'guests' while the ballot papers being carried by them were stamped. PPP election agents, many of them coming from far off places and trying to locate the 'invisible' polling stations were kidnapped on gun points, put in vehicles and left in the desert to walk back all day to reach at the places from where they had been kidnapped early morning.

On polling station Soomar Wari in UC Khwari, where polling took place Ali Madad Baladi, Saleh Baladi, Habib ur Rehman, Kahdin Hussain Shar and others were badly beaten up and 3 of them had to be admitted to hospitals.

For election Commission officials it is so easy to check rigging of this type since a ballot paper cannot be issued before noting down the particulars of the voter and getting his signatures/thumb impression on the counterfoil. Election Commission officials merely have to check the used ballot books and if particulars/signatures/thumb impression of the voter are not there than the votes are bogus. The elections can be declared invalid and the polling staff can be questioned on how the irregularity took place. The ones responsible or the ones who compelled the polling staff to commit the irregularity can be proceeded under the law.

KARACHI

MQM provocations and violations of election laws continue unabated. In NA 240, PS 92 panaflax hoardings of the PPP fixed on Shaheed Shah Nawaz Chowk, old Golimar, on the main Mangopir road were taken down and Panaflex portraits of MQM Chief Altaf Hussain fixed in the same frames.

Mutahida Qoumi Movement Nazim of UC 7 Orangi Town, Shahab is openly using transports of the local government for doing election work in PS 97. It is usual to see the Nazim moving in a motorcade of official transport with gun carrying activists of the MQM.

Couple of days back PPP worker Nihal was attacked while trying to hoist PPP flag on Islam Chowk. Shots were fired on ground hardly a foot away from where Nihal was standing. He was severely beaten up and warned with dire consequences if he did not leave the area.

DHANDLI NAMA 17TH DECEMBER 2007

KHAIRPUR DISTRICTS:

Mora details have been received about the 39 'invisible' polling stations in NA 216, PS 31 mentioned in the Dhandli Nama of the 16th. As mentioned Muslim League Functional's Pir Sibghat Ullah Shah is the candidate from here.

The actual Deh Jibbho has a total population of about a 1,000 people. However, there are at least three Deh Jibbhos recorded in the voters list as under:

Deh Jhibo 3040 votes code number 098330222

Deh Jhibo 2358 votes code number 0983330225

Deh Jhibo 6640 votes code number 098330226

There is a Deh Pir Bux with 1003 registered voters which does not exist.

The number of votes registered at the 'invisible' polling stations is as under:

UC Sikandar Abad (15 Dehs)	10, 634 votes
UC Chandko (23 Dehs)	13, 795 votes
UC Tajal (18 Dehs)	12,863 votes
Khewari (11 Dehs)	9,269 votes
Jhibbo (3 Dehs)	10, 110 votes

These numbers of votes are enough to turn any elections around.

Following Dehs have been converted into no go areas by Muslim League Functional.

Deh Gogo, Kurri, Kherap (1), Udohi, Dingri, hammad Khan Bhurguri, Pateji and Kherap (2).

KARACHI:

MQM has once again started slaughtering human beings in city and PPP workers are being kidnapped from their localities. From the constituency NA-250 Karachi, in the early hours of 17th Dec.07, one of PPP worker Khalid s/o Abdul Majeed resident of Bazatta Line, was kidnapped and tortured by MQM Unit Incharge of Bazatta Line because of hoisting of Pakistan Peoples Party flags and chalking in his home area. He was severely injured and rushed to JPMC where he was admitted.

However, FIR at the Saddar Police Station is still not registered. This is the beginning of violence from MQM and should be taken up at the highest level to stop henceforth.

JACOBABAD:

Since the announcement of the Schedule for the 2008 general elections that DPO Jacobabad Muneer Khuhro has become a party in the pre-polling rigging and instead of being DPO he seems performing duties as Protocol Officer of the PML-Q candidates in Jacobabad at NA-208.

DPO Muneer Khuhro has registered an FIR 165/2007 147, 148, 13 IAO at Civil Lines Police station against PPP leaders and activists, on the directives of PML-Q candidate. Surprisingly, the same Muneer Khuhro also DPO Investigations at the same time, therefore the investigation of the said FIR should be transferred to some other district and some independent police officer in the interest of justice and DPO Muneer Khuhro should be asked to stay independent and give up the Protocol duty to the opposite candidate.

The District Coordination Officer (DCO) Jacobabad Ijaz Ahmed Memon and other officials were misusing their authority and pressurizing and black-mailing the government employees and prisoners to submit their Postal Ballots so that they could manipulate and rig the postal ballot also.

DCO is calling all the government employees, including the government school teachers and ordering them to submit their postal ballots to him. DPO Muneer Khuhro is pressurizing the prisoners from Jacobabad to give him their ballot papers for misuse in favour of his unofficial boss, who happens to be a candidate against PPP Candidate Aijaz Jakhrani.

On the other hand, caretaker Prime Minister Mohammad Mian Soomro has activated entire state machinery to rig the elections on NA-208 and manipulate victory for his nephew on NA-208. Election Commission of Pakistan should take immediate action against the officials and stop this illegal exercise in violation of the election laws and rules.

DHANDLI NAMA December 18, 2007.

PROVINCIAL ELECTION COMMISSIONER (SINDH)

Taking notice of the complaints contained in the daily “Dhandli Namas” the Provincial Election Commission has written 10 different letters to District authorities for “strict compliance in accordance with the code of conduct”. Such letters have been addressed to DPO Ghotki, CCPO Karachi, District and Sessions Judges/DRO Mirpur khas/Sanghar/Dadu, DCO Khairpur, DPO Sanghar, PPO Karachi, TPO Orangi, DPO Sukkur and DCO Larkana. Copies of these communications have been sent to the PPP Anti-Rigging Cell

In their reply to the Provincial Election Commission PPP has welcomed the initiative and has pointed out that for this initiative to be effective and bear results it was important that the Election Commission puts in place a follow up mechanism to ensure that the officials taking their orders from the so called “care takers” attach due importance to these directives and do not ignore them outright. It was also proposed by the Anti-Rigging Cell that disciplinary and punitive action in a few cases where violations were committed with impunity would go a long way towards improving the situation.

THATTA DISTRICT

The constant violations of law by the Shirazi Group in Thatta continue unabated. Aijaz Shah Shirazi has been made the caretaker minister in the provincial government. His 3 sons, 2 sons-in-law and one nephew are contesting on different seats in Thatta District. His brother Shafqat Shah Shirazi is the district Nazim and is using staff, vehicles and resources of the local government with impunity.

The violations are of such a magnitude that the Secretary of the Election Commission of Pakistan Mr. Kunwar Dilshad himself told the media that the largest number of complaints received by the Election Commission were against caretaker minister Ijaz Shah Shirazi. The question however, remains as to what action has been taken against him and if not against him then even to deter him and his accomplices from taking the law in their own hands.

Four days back the PPP media cell in Thatta was raided upon and Pary of the PPP worker Sohail was picked up by the police. PPP workers accompanied by a large number of citizens surrounded the police station and got Sohail released.

Ghani Soomro of Ghora Bari who had contested against on the PPP ticket for Tehsil Nazim and his brothers were implicated in a false case and picked up by the police. They have been released on bail by the Court. Similarly a false case has been instituted against Rashid Qureshi the Information Secretary of CotyArea. Rashid Qureshi has also managed to get a bail. The sole purpose behind these false cases is harassment and to divert energies and time from PPP campaign.

PPP candidates wrote to the Election Commission objecting on 80 polling stations which are dominated by the Shirazis and on which large scale rigging had taken place in the last general elections. Election Commission has not cared to look into the complaint or to give a hearing to the PPP candidates and has simply replied that the polling stations of 2002 shall be retained.

KARACHI:

From the constituency PS-97, S.H.O Surjani Town, Mr. Jawaid is taking active part for MQM, it is against the law and Free & Fair Election in the Karachi, as the Election Commission of Pakistan is time to time announcing for Free / Fair Election in the country.

The S.H.O. Surjani with the help of his staff and his private Ghundaas (workers of MQM) are removing the chalking and banners of the under signed and threaten Pakistan Peoples Party's workers, which is clear controversy of Election Laws.

At the Constituency of PS-97 Karachi West IX, Town Nazim Abdul Haque, Naib Nazim Shahid Bashir, Naib Nazim UC-6 Moinddin Advocate, Nazim UC-6 Gadap Town Romi Bhai, Naib Nazim UC-6 Sarwar Bhai, UC-8 Orangi Town Nazim Masood Alam, Naib Nazim Muhammad Sami, UC-9 Orangi Nazim Shahid Malik, Naib Nazim UC-9 Orangi Town Mrs. Hamida Hamid Concillers including Abul, Tazim, Kamran, Hamid, Papu, Muhammad Anwar, Ghafoor, with the help of MQM workers are not allowing Pakistan Peoples Party's workers for fixation of Party Flags, Banners and Frequently removing the banners with the help of Orangi Town / Surjani Town Govt. Administration including SHO's.

Nazims, Naib Nazims, Concillers taking active part and working for MQM candidates, It is against the law and clear evidence of Pre-Planning Rigging for results of Polls, they have made "No-Go Area" for Pakistan Peoples Party Candidates and Workers, there is likely hood of breach of peace in the Constituency Area and Blood sheds.

S.H.O. Surjani should be transferred from this Police Station and hence another Station Officer may kindly be posted in the interest of Justice. Nazims should be directed to not interfere during Soft Election, Peaceful Environment and necessary action may kindly be taken against the culprits after proper inquiry in the matter.

Similarly, on PS-101, Pakistan Peoples Party's candidate Atif Baloch, in an application, said that some governmental parties are continuously creating hurdles for him in terms of burning and breaking Pakistan Peoples Party's flags and hoisting their banners over PPP's banner.

DANDLI NAMA DECEMBER 19, 2007

PPP ANTI-RIGGING CELL'S E-MAIL ADDRESS HACKED.

We regret to inform that unidentified hackers have been successful to hack PPP Anti Rigging Cell's e-mail address with the result that no emails can be sent or received from the old address.

We have been forced to CHANGE OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS. The new e-mail address is

ppp_antirigging@yahoo.com

Those sending e-mails to us are requested to contact us on phones or fax if they find that their mail is bouncing back. Let us see how long the new e-mail address will remain safe from hacking.

DISTRICT BADIN

PPP Anti-Rigging Cell has obtained copies of important documents regarding the fake educational certificates of Ali Bux Shah alias Puppoo Shah PML (Q) candidate from NA 225 and PS 57 Badin.

These documents that are being faxed together are the following:

- a. Fake matriculation certificate and marks sheet of Ali Bux Shah from BISE Hyderabad.
- b. The report of Controller of Examination BISE Hyderabad dated 21.7. 2001 declaring these documents as well as the stamp and signatures of the verifying authority fake and bogus.
- c. The BBA “degree” of Ali Bux Shah dated December 16, 1998. issued by some ISU.

The degree issued by ISU in 1998 which is not recognized by the University Grants Commission was not presented by Puppoo Shah when his matriculation certificate was declared bogus by BISE Hyderabad 3 years after the issuance of “degree”.

KARACHI:

PPP candidate from NA 240 Karachi West Abdullah Baloch has appealed to the Election Commission against the transfer of S.H.O. Pak colony police station.

It is interesting to note that Sibtain ul Hassan, who was the son of Ex-MNA of MQM A.K. Shamsi was earlier transferred from this post and Israr Changezi was appointed in his place. However, Sibtain ul Hassan has been brought back a few days ago since Israr Changezi was “guilty” of following the legal requirements and was reportedly not cooperating with the MQM candidates contesting elections from the area.

Abdullah Baloch has asked the Election Commissioner to annul this transfer and order the continuation of Israr Changezi as SHO Pak Colony.

DISTRICT SANGHAR:

PPP candidate from PS 78 Choudhry Abid Farooque has once complained to the District Returning Officer yesterday that the tearing down of PPP flags, banners and posters by PML (f) directly under the supervision of their Taluka Nazim had become a daily affair.

It may be remembered that 3 days back Asif Laghari a PPP worker was shot at in broad day light and was seriously injured. This and other violations of the law and code of conduct are being regularly reported in Dhandli Namas. The Election Commissioner (Sindh) taking note of the worsening situation in Sanghar district had also written to the local authorities to ensure strict compliance of the code of conduct. However, it appears that the local administration has chosen to ignore the instructions of the Election Commission and is following the orders of the PML (F) and their so called “care taker” Regime.

COMPLAINT SUMMARIES IN PRESS

Dawn, December 04, 2007

Government accused of forming cell to rig polls

By Our correspondent

Washington, Dec 03: Mr. Robert Novak, a renowned journalist, in his article in The Washington Post has accused the Government of Pakistan of forming a cell headed by a former ISI official to rig the upcoming elections.

Mr. Novak also claimed that the Pakistani establishment has launched a proxy war against the United States with the support of pro-establishment journalists blaming Washington for using democracy as an excuse to weaken the Pakistan military, while primarily the Pakistani establishment is annoyed by the “Washington’s lukewarm support” for democracy in Pakistan.

The article further claims that Benazir Bhutto is not acceptable to the Pakistani establishment although she is backed by the US, while Nawaz Sharif is acceptable to the

Establishment but Washington has serious repercussions for him due to his “Islamic ties” that may alter US interests into a nightmare.

Dawn, December 04, 2007

EC disallows private guards for poll duty

By Iftikhar A. Khan

Islamabad, Dec 3: Election Commission in a meeting headed by Chief Election Commissioner, Justice (retd) Qazi Muhammad Farooq, rejected the Sindh Government request for hiring private security guards to assist police during the elections. The request was made by the Sindh home secretary due to shortage of manpower for security duties. The EC secretary, Kanwar Dilshad, further rejected the Sindh home secretary’s argument that the same was allowed in 2002 election. The EC secretary said that the commission did not observe any such arrangement in past.

According to the EC, 47 political parties have applied for election symbols.

The important points to note are:

- MMA and Jamat-e-Islami have applied separately,
- Tehreek-e-Insaf has not applied,
- PML (Qasim Group) led by Syed Kabir Ali Wasti, which merged with PML after 2002 election, has applied for a separate symbol.

The scrutiny of nomination papers for most of the constituencies was completed on Monday, and the appeals against the acceptance or rejection of nomination papers will be decided by Dec 14, 2007.

Nawa-e-Waqt, December 04, 2007

“Transparency” begins

By Irfan Siddiqui

In his regular column for Nawa-e-Waqt “Naqsh-e-Khayal”, Irfan Siddiqui raised the issue of transparency in the upcoming elections and the rejection of nomination papers of Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif, the leaders of PLN (N).

According to the author, the nomination papers of Shahbaz Sharif were rejected for NA 119 and PP 141, 142, accusing the candidate of being a bank defaulter, a mastermind of the attack on Supreme Court, and a wanted murderer for an FIR registered in Sabza zar police station.

The author further clarifies the matter of attack on the SC that this matter was resolved by SC itself through a sue-motto action. SC, according to the author, has itself investigated the issue and has pointed out several people being responsible for the attack. But in this whole story, the name of Shahbaz Sharif was not mentioned even once. All those being responsible for the attack are now in the shadow of PML (Q).

The author adds that in 2002, while Shahbaz Sharif was abroad, his nomination papers were accepted for the election, as a result of the high court verdict that Shahbaz Sharif is not a defaulter, But later on he was not allowed to contest the election raising the issue that the signatures on the nomination papers are not his own.

Since, in the presence of the High Court verdict, it was not possible to reject his nomination papers for being a defaulter, this time he was accused for being a wanted murderer for a registered FIR.

The author further discusses the details of the arguments brought forward by Shahbaz Sharif's lawyer, resulting in no mercy for Sharif, and finally the nomination papers were rejected on the basis of not being a "righteous" person.

The author, as a result of all this discussion, raises the issue that how much an independent judiciary is needed and how worse the situation could be without an independent judiciary.

At the end, the author exclaims at the rejection of Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers, and worries that what will be the end destiny of this journey of "Transparency".

Daily Jang, December 04, 2007

Raheel Bhatti has been appointed as Coordinator for Inter-provincial _____

Islamabad, Jang News: According to press note released by Dr. Mohammad Amjad, Federal minister for Inter-provincial _____, M. Raheel Khan Bhatti has been appointed as coordinator Inter-provincial _____ for Punjab. The press note says that he has been a reputed political and social worker and a member and supporter of PML (Q). He has offered his services voluntarily.

Daily Jang, December 04, 2007

Further extension in the Federal cabinet: Mansoor Tariq joined as Minister for Railway

Islamabad Online: The Federal cabinet has been extended as Mansoor Tariq joined as minister for railway this Monday taking oath in the presence of President Pervez Musharraf at the president house.

Daily Jang, Dec 04, 2007

Ahsan Iqbal on the issue of rejection of nomination papers By Special Correspondent

The Secretary Information PML (N), Ahsan Iqbal, declared the news propagated by a news agency as part of the Government's "Disinformation" campaign, in which it was stated that Nawaz Sharif had offered Pakistani territory to Bill Clinton, the former US president, for pursuing a search for Usama bin Laden. He further added that it was Bill Clinton on CNN and BBC after 9/11, who praised the support of Pervez Musharraf and clearly stated that it was not available to us during Nawaz Sharif's period.

Ahsan Iqbal added that Pervez Musharraf is still afraid of Nawaz Sharif and the rejection of nomination papers is linked to it.

He accused the Government of being committed to the agenda of rigging and that without an independent judiciary free and fair elections can not be held.

The Frontier Post, Dec 03, 2007

Rules of game for coming polls

F.P. Report

Lahore: Talking to a delegation of PML (N) from Hafizabad on Sunday, Shahbaz Sharif, the president of PML (N), declared that unconstitutional rulers have prepared the rules of game for the success of king party in the coming elections. He added that there will be no benefit to the opposition parties by taking part in unfair elections.

He further clarified that the component parties of APDM were not struggling for power rather for restoration of constitution and an independent judiciary.

He further alleged the Government for worsening the situation in tribal areas and Swat.

He appreciated the party workers for fighting against dictatorship for eight years.

Daily Pakistan, Dec 03, 2007

Farzana Raja Says that using state resources is against the rules of election

Islamabad Online: Farzana Raja, Secretary information PPP, Punjab, in her statement issued on Sunday, clarified that the use of state resources, large scaled transfers in administration and judiciary, and the Government's intervention at district level is against the rules and code of conduct issued by the EC. Therefore, EC should take notice of all these issues. The statement further accused the interim Government of being biased and using state machinery in favor of the previous rulers. Therefore, the statement added, free and fair elections cannot be contested in this situation.

PPP is extremely worried, the statement pointed out, about the counting of votes in the election. Therefore, the statement suggested, there should be a specific number of the ballot boxes issued for both the national and provincial assembly's constituencies, and this detail should be available on the EC website. And the local Governments should be abolished for conducting free and fair election, being these bodies in place, it will not be possible to trust the election results.

The Statesman, December 3, 2007

Amjad denies to support PML-Q candidate

Islamabad: Talking to PTV, the caretaker Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination, Dr. Muhammad Amjad, has categorically refuted the allegation of supporting a PML (Q) candidate in the up coming elections. He added that support or opposition of any candidate or party, while in the interim setup, was totally unethical. He said that his participation in receptions by his friends after becoming minister should not be considered as support or opposition for any candidate in the elections. He accepted that he was President of PML (Q) Islamabad, but after taking oath as a minister he has resigned from the office and party.

The minister expressed his willingness to meet Syed Nayyar Bukhari himself and clear all misunderstandings and allegations about his conduct. He further clarified that President Pervez Musharraf had clearly directed them to remain neutral and unbiased in the upcoming elections.

Dr. Amjad on local Governments and upcoming elections

Islamabad: Dr. Muhammad Amjad, Caretaker Federal Minister for Inter provincial Coordination, in an interview with Naeem Mahboob, said that it is final to conduct elections on January 8, 2008. All the participating political parties are provided equal support for the coming election. The interim Government is not favoring any individual or party in this regard. He further added that those who want to boycott the elections should take part constructively in a political and democratic process.

Daily Ausaf, Daily Jinnah,

Daily Ausaf, Dec 03, 2007

If all the Political parties are united, boycotting the elections can be one option: PPP

Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Talking to the party workers from Sahiwal and Cheecha watni, said that the scheduled meeting between Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif will have better results for restoration of democracy in Pakistan.

He added that if all the political parties in the country are united to boycott the election then they are ready for that. However, he pointed out that reversing the decision of emergency and PCO only can ensure free and fair elections.

Farzana Raja, Secretary Information PPP Punjab, in her statement issued on Sunday, clarified that the use of state resources, large scaled transfers in administration and judiciary, and the Government's intervention at district level is against the rules and code of conduct issued by the EC. Therefore, EC should take notice of all these issues. The statement further accused the interim Government of being biased and using state machinery in favor of the previous rulers. Therefore, the statement added, free and fair elections cannot be contested in this situation.

Jahangir Badar, Secretary General PPP, said that the decision of distribution of party ticket has been finalized after the approval of Benazir Bhutto, therefore, this issue should not be taken to the press.

Pakistan Observer, Dec 03, 2007

Implications for keeping Sharifs out

Editorial

The caretaker Government and President Pervez Musharraf are trying their best to convey the message that the coming elections will be free and fair, however, the nomination papers of Shahbaz Sharif, President PML (N) have been rejected on the basis of unconvincing objection. If the same goes on then it will be ironical for the entire country.

Every party should get level playing field in every respect and no artificial hurdles be created to entangle candidates and parties in legal intricacies. If parties were forced to boycott the elections, it would have serious consequences for the country.

Daily Jinnah, Dec 03, 2007

Nobody is going to miss the “train”: Mushahid

NNI

Islamabad: Mushahid Hussain Syed, Secretary General PML (Q), in a meeting with Mir Waiz Umar Farooq, Chairman Hurriyat Conference, uncovered that the election manifesto of the party has been prepared and will be announced by president of the party in a news conference.

He claimed that the accusations of rigging in the elections is just a drama and nobody will miss the “train”.

Daily Jinnah, Dec 03, 2007

Nazim Rawal town is using state resources for Sheikh Rashid’s election campaign:

Hanif Abbasi

News Reporter

Rawalpindi: Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, MMA candidate for NA 56, while addressing a press conference in a local hotel accused Sheikh Rashid Shafiq, Nazim Rawal town, for misusing the state resources in favour of Sheikh Rashid Ahmad. He asked the SC to take notice of the protocol provided to Sheikh Rashid and further requested for the demolition of the local Governments.

Dawn, Dec 02, 2007

Shujaat ready to help allay rigging fears

By Ashraf Mumtaz

Lahore Dec 01: Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, President PML (Q), while talking to Dawn at his residence said that his party was willing to discuss reservations about the electoral process with PPP and APDM and meet the caretaker Premier along with them to have them removed. He, however, said that the demand for reinstatement of the judges of superior judiciary was neither an issue for the common man nor did it have any relation with the elections.

The News, December 05, 2007
Ghinwa seeks BB disqualification
By Mumtaz Alvi

Islamabad: Chairperson PPP(S) and sister in law of BB has written to the EC asking for BB's disqualification for allegedly using state machinery, referring to the protocol being given to her for the election campaign and other activities. However, BB has not so far reacted to the ongoing verbal onslaught by Ghinwa Bhutto.

Both of them have filed nomination papers for NA-204, the constituency known as the power base of ZA Bhutto.

Inayat, The PPP (S) spokesman, confirmed that they have written to the EC and that they are looking forward for an appropriate action.

Ghinwa wrote in her letter, "The Government policy towards BB shows its partiality, casting doubts on the holding of free and fair and transparent elections."

Kanwar Muhammad Dilshad, Secretary EC, however, clarified that they have not received any such letter so far. And if it happens so, it will be looked up for an appropriate action, if necessary.

Daily Jinnah, December 5, 2007
Extended detention of Aitezaz is a conspiracy to rig the Polls: Raza Rabbani

Raza Rabbani, Opposition leader in the Senate, has extended his anger at the detention of SCBA president and PPP's candidate for NA 124, Chaudhry Aitezaz Ahsan.

He said, in a statement, that unfortunately the EC has failed in fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities. The SC is not providing enough opportunity to the candidates to meet their voters. The statement further added that the reasons for which the detention has been extended are based on presumptions.

He further added that the EC has not been successful in controlling the transfers during the election time frame.

Daily Jinnah, Dec 05, 2007
Election Campaigns' stickers and posters on Government vehicles for Sheikh Rashid

Rawalpindi, Ali Safdar Abbas: The former federal minister for Railway and a candidate for NA 55 and 56, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, has started using state's machinery in both the constituencies. The security vans provided to him have been decorated with his posters and stickers, while a hooter on a mobile van which is been controlled by an ASI, has started raising election slogans for Sheikh Rashid.

Daily Jinnah, Dec 05, 2007
Pervaiz Ilahi wants to have political gains by accusing BB: Farzana Raja
Special Correspondent

Islamabad: Farzana Raja, Secretary Information PPP Panjab, has said that the former Chief Minister Punjab is embarrassed by the success of BB and is accusing her, while his party and Chaudhry brothers are on their way to a political decline.

She added that BB is a loyal Pakistani and the sacrifices of her family for democracy in the country are unforgettable. While Chaudhry brothers, she further added, have always been indulged in the politics of establishment and have always ruled the country with the support of establishment and military. And now they again want to rig the election process through the local Governments.

Pointing to the establishment of a political cell led by a former ISI head, she said that the interim Government is the continuation of the previous rulers, who have begun efforts to rig the election by indulging the agencies and Government officials.

Daily Jinnah, Dec 05, 2007

42 members of the previous Punjab cabinet have still not returned their official vehicles

Special News Reporter

Lahore: 42 members of the former Punjab cabinet belonging to PML (Q) have still not returned their official vehicles, while according to the rules of the Punjab Government, they should have returned these in three days. The final notices have been issued to these members by the Punjab Government.

Daily Khabrain, Dec 05, 2007

Government has invited 60 foreign delegates to monitor the election process

Staff Reporter

Karachi: Federal Government has invited 160 delegates from UNO, UK, Canada, Germany, France, Common Wealth, EU, and Human rights organizations to monitor the upcoming elections on January 8, 2008. The Government has also invited 80 countries through their embassies that if they are willing they are welcomed to monitor the election process. All these delegated will be free to visit any polling station and they shall be provided security through Police and Rangers.

For the upcoming elections, special transparent ballot boxes shall be used, so that to counter the accusations of the opposition parties.

Daily Khabrain, Dec 05, 2007

Free and fair elections are not possible in the present scenario. APDM, ARD

Special Reporter

A meeting of the joint committee of APDM and ARD, who initiated the Charter of Demand for free, fair and impartial elections, was held in the Chamber of the leader of the opposition. The committee reviewed and discussed the Charter of Demand for free and fair elections and concluded that free and fair elections are not possible in the presence of an EC which is not fulfilling the constitutional responsibilities.

Daily Aaj, Dec 05, 2007

State Machinery has been used for the PML (Q) candidates

Charsadda: Arshad Abdullah, ANP candidate for PF 18 Charsadda 2, while addressing a press conference has accused the PML (Q) candidates of the use of state machinery and has requested the EC for taking notice of the issue.

The News, Dec 05, 2007

Battle of the Bhuttos: Ghinwa lodges complaint against BB to CEC

By Jamal Khurshid

Karachi: Ghinwa Bhutto, Chairperson PPP (S), has filed a complaint against BB before the CEC, accusing her of using state machinery for her election campaign. Her lawyer submitted a file to the CEC saying that the police officials concerned under the guidance and instructions of the DIG Larkana are giving full protocol, assistance and escort to BB during her election campaign. He further added that BB is in direct violation of the rule # 17 of the CoC issued by the EC. He demanded the CEC to restrain the authorities concerned from providing Government support and patronage to BB. The copies of the complaint were also sent to the Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, Home Minister, PEC, and IG Sindh.

Both the ladies, Ghinwa and BB, are contesting elections from NA 204, Larkana-1.

Daily Jang, Dec5, 2007

In the situation where Institutions are kidnapped, the call for free and fair elections seems a joke: Shahid Gilani

Rawalpindi: Syed Shaihid Gilani, MMA leader and candidate for NA 54, while in meetings with workers at Tench Bhata, Aziz abad, and Mughal abad, said that even a single penny of the millions of rupees waived off by the Government shall be brought back. Nobody is allowed to waive off the nation's money in this way. He added that the nation will not accept any decision without the restoration of the judges and taking back the PCO. He declared the rejection of nomination papers of Sharif brothers as pre-poll rigging. He further said that elections can be beneficial only in the presence of a free election commission.

Dawn, Dec 05, 2007

No chance for fair polls: Qaim Ali Shah

By our correspondent

Khairpur, Dec 4: Syed Qaim Ali Shah, PPP president Sindh, while speaking at a lunch meeting hosted for the US Consel General in Karachi, said that free and fair elections are not possible in the present situation where judiciary is in crisis, issue of sacked judges remains unresolved, administration is partial, and close relatives of of the caretaker PM and ministers are contesting polls.

He told the US official that since Pakistan is an important ally in war on terror; therefore, US must ensure that policy making and institutional set up here is according to the wishes of the people of the country.

Dawn, Dec 05, 2007

Nazims gird up their lions as caretakers look the other way

Dawn Report

Gujar Khan/ Rawalpindi, Dec 4: The kinsmen of city district and town nazims in different constituencies of Jhelum, Rawalpindi and Attock have girded up their lions under the umbrella of Q league, fully prepared to use huge development funds at their disposal and support to the PML (Q) candidates.

The report adds that in public perception the mere interim suspension of the offices of these districts and town nazims could not guarantee their impartiality. Unless the local bodies in constituencies where such nepotism and favoritism is inevitable are dissolved, elections simply cannot be fair and impartial.

Dawn, Dec 05, 2007

Arbab angry over the reshuffle in Hyderabad police

By M. H. Khan

Dr. Arbab Ghulam Rahim, former Chief Minister Sindh and President PML (Q) Sindh, expressed his annoyance over recent re-shuffling in police department in Hyderabad district and spoke to the regional police officer, following the complaints by local PML leaders. He also requested the RPO to review the re- shuffling and asked him to remain neutral in the elections. Witnesses say that he also spoke to the Governor Sindh in this regard.

Pakistan Observer, Dec 05, 2007

Fazl doubts fair polls, insists on participation

By Tariq Saeed

Peshawar: Maulana Fazlur Rahman, former leader of the opposition and chief of JUI, while addressing a news conference said that his party will definitely participate in the upcoming elections. However, he expressed the apprehension about the transparency of the polls saying it would be unwise to expect free, fair and impartial elections with the present caretaker set up. He further claimed that he believes in the independence of judiciary, supremacy of the constitution and supports restoration of the deposed judges.

Nawa-eWaqt, Dec 05, 2007

Basharat Raja on accusations of rigging

News reporter

Basharat Raja, former provincial minister and candidate for NA 54, while conducting corner meetings with workers said that those who remained in houses for five years and have done nothing for the common people are aware of their fate and therefore, are opting for the easiest option of accusations and blaming. He further added that the

Governement of PML (Q) has served people in every possible way out and therefore, they are confident of their success in the upcoming elections.

Press summary, December 06, 2007

Pakistani leadership has assured me of fair election: Abdullah Gul

Ankara: Abdullah Gul, President of Turkey, on return from a successful visit from Pakistan has said that the relations between Pakistan and Turkey are an example for the whole world, and we want to help Pakistan get rid of its political crisis.

He told the news reporters that he had meetings with several political leaders of the country and all of them have applauded this effort of Turkey.

He further added that the representatives of the former Government and officials of the present interim set-up have assured him that the upcoming elections will be fair and transparent.

He appealed to all the political parties of the country to take part in the elections and get benefit from the political process.

Daily Express, Islamabad.

Elections will be transparent: EC

Islamabad: Kanwar Dilshad, Secretary EC, while talking to a French news agency has rejected the accusations of rigging by the opposition. He said that EC is a constitutional institution and is independent for conducting free and fair elections. He clarified that more than 95% of the polling stations will be established in Schools or Government buildings and the remaining shall be established after close consultation with the candidates.

Daily Express, Daily Khabrain, Daily Ausaf, Statesman, Daily Jang, Nawa-e-Waqt.

If it was planned to rig the elections, Nawaz and BB would have been arrested: Musharraf

Washington, Islamabad, Quetta: Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan, during an interview with the foreign TV has claimed that he can not be pressurized by anyone and the decision about the uniform was his own.

He said that whichever party gets the majority, will be entitled to form the Government. He clarified that the Reconciliation Ordinance was not for making a deal but to allow political leaders like BB, Nawaz and others to come back home and participate in elections.

He further rejected the propaganda of arresting political workers and leaders to rig the elections. If this was the aim, he added, Nawaz and BB would have been arrested.

Daily Express.

Local Governments should be abolished to ensure free and fair elections: Tahir Jahan

Rawalpindi: Tahir Jahan, leader of Sunni movement, has demanded the abolishment of local Governments and appointment of administrators for ensuring free and fair elections in the country.

Daily Khabrain

Minister running ANP campaign: PPP

By Qaiser Khan Afridi

Peshawar: PPP provincial chapter has asserted that the party will restore all deposed judges of the SC and High Courts and put an end to army role in politics forever if it gets power.

Ayub Shah, President PPP Peshawar and candidate for NA 1, has alleged Tariq Mansoor, Federal minister for railways, for misusing the official machinery in favor of ANP and urged the EC to take notice and stop the minister from influencing the election process. He condemned the continued house-arrest of PPP leader Aitezaz Hassan and said that fair election in this situation is impossible.

The Post.

Aitzaz's detention reflects caretakers' partiality: PPP

Islamabad: Sherry Rahman, Information Secretary PPP, issued a statement condemning the extension in the detention of Aitzaz Hassan. The statement also condemned the regime for not allowing the US ambassador to meet Ahsan. The report further questioned the ECP claims to hold free and fair elections in the face of increasing reports pertaining to polls rigging and violations of the election laws by the supporters of Musharraf regime.

The Post, Daily Khabrain, Daily Express, Daily Jinnah, Daily Jang.

BB worried about rigging, the option to boycott is open

Islamabad: Ambassadors from US, UK, Spain, and 18 Arab countries hold separate meetings with BB, chairperson PPP. She told them about the expected pre-poll rigging plan of the Government and presented her party's agenda to struggle for democracy. She sought moral help from the foreign states to pressurize the regime for free, fair and transparent elections.

She further clarified that the committee of APDM and ARD would present a charter of demands to President Pervez Musharraf and if it was not approved then the boycott option is open.

The Post, Daily Pakistan

Political leaders doubt free and fair polls in emergency rule

By Ali Hussain Toori

Representatives of six political parties participated in a multi-party roundtable on elections, jointly organized by NDI and CCE. These representatives expressed their worries about the transparency of the upcoming elections in the emergency rule and called upon the Government to lift emergency immediately. They also demanded that all the detained political workers should be released and the candidates should be allowed to run their campaigns freely.

Citing concerns about the ECP code of conduct, all parties agreed that the absence of any mechanism to monitor violations of the CoC and no transparent jurisdiction system means there is no accountability to the political parties for their complaints.

Frontier Post, Peshawar, Dawn,

Local Governments should be abolished to ensure transparent elections: Arshad Awan

Rawalpindi: Malik Arshad Awan, PPP candidate for NA 52, while addressing a gathering at Chaklala, demanded of the abolishment of the local Governments for ensuring free and fair elections.

Daily Express.

“Role of Impartial President”

By Asar Chohan

Asar Chohan, in his regular column “Siasat Nama”, has pointed to a news item in a national newspaper quoting Maj. General Rashid Qureshi, Media advisor for President Musharraf, that the president has decided to remain impartial and remain at a distance from PML (Q), and that BB and Nawaz are back home and they can meet president anytime they want to.

Asar Chohan says that if this is the case then PML (Q) must be worried by the statement as for the last five years they have been benefiting from the set-up because of the president.

The author adds that since Musharraf has become the president of the country and now is the symbol of federation, if he decides to remain impartial and unbiased, this decision will add to both his position and the country’s image in the international community.

He further adds that it is very much necessary that the coming elections should be fair and transparent, and the Government and EC should not favor any party or candidate(s).

Daily Express, Islamabad.

ISI gave 60 million to ensure PML (Q) victory in 2002: Shahbaz Sharif

Lahore: Mian Shahbaz Sharif, President PML (Q), while addressing workers from NA 118, 121, 124, and members of Lawyer’s forum at his residence uncovered that in 2002 ISI had given millions of rupees to ensure PML (Q) victory in the elections. He further

added that if the opposition parties are not united then boycotting the elections is useless. He stressed that it is the moment when all of us should strive for the restoration of the deposed judges, independent judiciary and lifting the PCO. He praised the efforts of PML (N) workers for fighting against the dictator and his fellows.

Daily Jinnah

Police security still with former premier and ministers

By Sardar Abdul Hameed

The former premier Shaukat Aziz and other ministers are still using the police security; resultantly Islamabad police is facing the shortage of personnel for the routine security purposes.

Daily Jinnah

Perception of partiality

Editorial

INCIDENTS continue to take place which create a perception of partiality bordering on irrelevance on the part of those who are supposed to arrange the holding of fair and free elections. While the president had said the arrival of Ms Bhutto and the exiled PML-N leaders would ensure a level-playing field for all political parties, the latter have been debarred from taking part in the elections. The opposition has complained of postings and transfers of government officers with an aim to influence the outcome of the elections. When caretaker governments comprising individuals closely linked to the administration were sworn in both at the centre and provinces many had described them as an extension of the erstwhile ruling alliance. On Tuesday PML-F provincial chief Ahmad Mahmud accused Ch Pervez Elahi of acting as a de facto Chief Minister who had been allowed to use the government machinery in his election campaign. He particularly mentioned the use of police by the former CM against his political opponents and warned that unless this was stopped his party might be forced to boycott the elections. Mr Ahmad Mahmud's words carry special weight as his party supports President Musharraf. While this is happening a notification has been issued to axe 37 defiant judges who widely enjoy the reputation of being independent. Judges who had refused to take oath are being told to urgently leave their official residences and police has been used in at least one case to eject the judge and his family. This is against the normal practice of giving government officers sufficient time to shift. Lawyers, students and civil society activists have intervened to stop the ejection. Despite the lip service paid to the freedom of the media, some of the bans and restrictions imposed after the Emergency continue to be in force. The protests by the media organisations therefore continue.

In the meanwhile the ARD and APDM have met in Islamabad to formulate a charter of demands that they think has to be implemented by the administration to show its commitment to hold fair polls. While the two alliances differ over a number of issues

they agree that conditions required for holding fair and free elections do not exist and have decided to boycott the polls if their demands are not accepted.

There is a dire need on the part of the government to urgently address the complaints by the opposition parties, lawyers and the media organisations to ensure free, fair and transparent elections. Any perception of the elections having been rigged can lead to social upheaval. Ms Bhutto has talked about a Ukraine type Orange Revolution. Others are haunted by the memories of post 1977 events. It is time the government took appropriate notice of the widespread dissatisfaction with election arrangements.

The Nation, Islamabad.

Violation of election rules taking place all over Punjab: Gilani

Multan: Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Central vice President PPP, through a statement told the newsmen that PPP has no reason to believe in the credibility of the coming elections when flagrant violation of election rules is taking place all over the province.

The statement further added that the electoral lists provided by the EC are incomplete and there are huge differences in the numbers of voters included.

He criticized EC for not having effective control on transfers during the election time-frame and for not responding to the requests of PPP candidates to visit Multan and other parts of southern Punjab to verify the involvement of District Nazims in election campaigns for the candidates.

Business Recorder, The News.

Nisar Memon on transparency in up-coming elections

Senator Nisar A. Memon, the interim Federal minister of information, has said that the Government is committed to hold free and fair elections, and the state media shall give equal coverage to the opposition parties in the coming elections.

Daily Jang.

The Government is trying to ensure that news about rigging may not go public: Mazhar Abbas

Mazhar Abbas, Secretary General PFUJ, addressing an agitation at Islamabad press club against ban on TV channels and PEMRA ordinance, criticized the Government for snatching the right of information from the common man. He added that the ban is solely for the purpose to ensure those news go public that the Government wants.

Daily Jang.

BB is using state Machinery: Ghinwa Bhutto

Karachi: Ghinwa Bhutto has filed a complaint against BB to the CEC and has accused BB of using state machinery for her election campaign. The same has been sent to caretaker CM Sindh, Interior Minister Sindh, Provincial EC, and IG Sindh.

Nawa-e-Waqt

**Any action under Emergency and PCO shall not be supported in next Parliament:
APDM and ARD**

Islamabad: The committee responsible for preparing the Charter of Demand consist of APDM and ARD members have decided not to support any action under PCO and Emergency in the next parliament. The committee developed consensus on several points for the Charter of demand. Ahsan Iqbal from PML (N) told the newsmen that the finalized draft of the charter of demand will soon be presented to the leadership of the parties and after their approval it will be made public.

Daily Jang.

Press summary, December 07, 2007

Rigging elections will result in mass movement: BB

Islamabad: Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson PPP, while talking to newsmen warned the regime against rigging in the forthcoming elections and said that any such attempt will lead to a countrywide movement by the opposition parties.

She further added that the issue of sacked judges should be decided by the next parliament after holding the forthcoming elections.

The Frontier Post, The Nation, Daily Mashriq, Daily Aaj, Nawa-e-Waqt, Daily Jang, Pakistan Observer, The Post, The News, Statesman,

Caretaker minister campaigning for PML (Q): PPP-ARC

Karachi: Taj Haider, Incharge PPP anti-rigging cell accused Ghulam Rasool Unar, provincial caretaker minister, for running election campaign for his nephew contesting elections for PS-27 Nawab Shah.

The Nation, Daily Khabrain,

District Nazim accused for misusing public funds

Karachi: Aijaz Hussain, PPP candidate for NA-28, has written a letter to the CEC accusing Saeeda Soomro, District Nazim and sister of the caretaker premier, of violations of the ECP rules and code of conduct. He requested CEC to take action in this regard.

The Nation,

No fair polls under present regime: PTI

Karachi: Mohammad Zubair Khan, President PTI Sindh, while addressing a press conference criticized all those opposition parties who are urging for contesting elections and said that they are doing so for their personal interests.

The Nation,

Government to consider CoD if submitted: Memon

Islamabad: Nisar Memon, Federal minister for information, has said that the elections would be held according to the schedule and Government would willingly consider any Charter of Demands if given by ARD and APDM.

The Nation, Daily Khabrain,

Emergency is a barrier in the way of fair and Transparent election: Ayaz Amir

Chakwal: Chaudhry Ayaz Amir, PML (N) candidate, has said that state machinery has been using to interfere in the elections and harass the masses. He added that at present there is no law in the country and demanded for lifting of emergency for the smooth election process.

Daily Jinnah,

Complaint filed in EC against District Nazim Rawalpindi

Rawalpindi: Mohammad Abbas Malik and Iftikhar Ahmad Warsi, PML (N) candidates for PP 5 and PP 4 respectively, have filed a complaint against Raja Javed Ikhlas, District Nazim Rawalpindi, accusing him of election campaigns for PML (Q) candidates.

Daily Ausaf,

No chance for transparent elections without freedom of media and judiciary: Hameed Gul

Islamabad: Gen. (Retd.) Hameed Gul has said that the coming elections will not be transparent and fair without the freedom of media and judiciary. He requested the political parties to strive for the freedom of judiciary and media and boycott the elections.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt, Daily Jang,

Federal Minister Dr. Amjad has to clarify the allegations: Returning Officer

Islamabad: District and Session judge, while taking decision on the application of Azeem Chaudhry, independent candidate NA 48, has directed the federal minister Dr. Amjad to clarify the allegations of supporting PML (Q) candidate in his election campaign.

Daily Jang, Daily Jinnah, Daily Ausaf, Daily Express,

Government to take serious steps to ensure transparent elections: Nazir Shah

Daultana: Syed Nazir Hussain Shah, District Vice President PML (N), has demanded the Government to take serious steps to ensure free and fair elections. He added they will keep their struggle continued till the emergency is lifted and the constitution restored.

Daily Jinnah

Pervez Musharraf has finalized to rig the elections: Nawaz Sharif

Islamabad: Nawaz Sharif, Former Premier of Pakistan, met with ambassadors of 14 islamic countries and said that the caretaker Government, EC, and present judiciary are biased and have prepared a mega plan to rig the coming elections. He expressed his willingness to participate in the elections but there are proofs of plans to rig the elections and these cannot be overlooked. He praised the efforts of lawyers, civil society, media and political workers for their struggle against the dictator and restoration of democratic norms in the country.

Daily Jang, The Nation, Dawn,

District and Tehsil Nazims are using state resources for their “favourite” candidates

Islamabad: Free And Fair Election Network (FAFEN) has prepared a report about 100 constituencies and has revealed that District and Tehsil Nazims, DCOs, DPOs, and officials of local Governments have violated the EC rules and are busy in supporting their candidates from PML (Q) and other parties.

Daily Ausaf, The Post, The News,

District Governments have begun campaign for PML (Q) on cable

Lahore: The District Governments from all over Punjab have started election campaign for Chaudhry Pervez Ilahi, former CM Punjab. A 10 minutes video film prepared by City district Government Lahore is run on cable all over Punjab, in order to gain political support for the former CM Punjab.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt,

Transparent elections are not possible while biased EC is in place: Sardar Mahtab

Garhi Habib Ullah: Mahtab Ahmed Khan Abbasi, former CM NWFP, has said that it is not possible to have fair and transparent elections till there is emergency and biased EC in place. He requested PPP to boycott the elections so that the Government may be compelled through a joint principle stand.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt

Accusations of interference in elections on District Government

Gojar Khan: Raja Pervez Ashraf, PPP GS and former MNA, has filed a complaint in the office of returning officer accusing Raja Javed Ikhlas, District Nazim, of supporting the election campaign of PML (Q) candidates.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt

District Governments and Bureaucracy are campaigning for PML (Q): Farzana Raja

Lahore: Farzana Raja, Secretary information PPP Punjab, has accused the District Governments of Punjab for harassing the masses and supporting the election campaigns of PML (Q).

Daily Khabrain,

Transparent elections are not possible in presence of Local governments: Azmat Bukhari

Khor: Azmat Bukhari, PPP candidate for NA 57, has said that free, fair and transparent elections are not possible in the presence of local Governments.

Daily Khabrain

The decision to send representatives for monitoring the elections has not been finalized: EC

Brussels: EC has clarified that no any decision to sent monitors for elections has yet been finalized. The EC team is in Pakistan and is observing the situation because there are worries about rigging in the coming elections.

Daily Express

Transparent Elections and Ground Realities By Farzana Raja

In her special article, Farzana Raja raises the question of Transparency in the coming elections. After analyzing the historical political scenario of the country, she finalizes that

efforts to sideline PPP are in place and Government, District Government and Government officials are all part of this conspiracy.
She concludes that in present situation it seems impossible to have free and fair elections in the country.

Daily Khabrain, Daily Jinnah

Rigging, not Boycott is the real issues

By Najam Sethi

In his article, the author has commented on the Charter of Demand being finalized by opposition parties. In his view, this is a better alternative to present demands to the Government and president rather than boycotting the elections.
He further claims that although it is sure that the president will not accept all the demands, but at least he will gain confidence of the opposition by accepting few of them. The author, however, warns to be careful about Musharraf's "Loyal fellows" in this regard.

Daily Jinnah.

Independent EC

Nazim F Haji, in his letter to the News writes about independence of EC, and says that free and fair elections can only be held under an independent EC and in the presence of independent judiciary.

The News

Candidate's move against Nazim's son

Rawalpindi: PML (N) candidates have filed a complaint to the ECP against Raja Qasim Ikhlas, son of District Nazim, for using public funds on his electioneering.

The News,

NAB not to prosecute politicians until polls

Rawalpindi: The caretaker Government has stopped NAB from taking action against politicians till elections to ensure political parties participation in the coming elections.

The News

Senator's papers challenged for Government Office

Peshawar: A candidate for NA-46, challenged the nomination papers of senator Hameedullah Jan Afridi, claiming that he can not contest polls because he is school teacher.

The News.

Press Summary, December 09, 2007

PPP accuses Government of rigging polls

Islamabad: The Central Election Monitoring Cell of PPP has accused the state machinery of being involved in harassing its party workers and leaders across the country so as to turn the pre-poll environment in favor of PML (Q) and its allied parties. The report by CEMC of PPP brought forward details of the complaints from across the country in this regard.

Frontier Post, The Nation, The News,

Naheed Alleged Government directly running election campaign

Okara: Naheed Khan, Political Secretary of PPP, has said that even if president Musharraf takes in hand the election campaign of the PML (Q), the “Political orphans” would face a crushing defeat. She further alleged the the federal and provincial interim Governments were directly running the election campaign for the PML (Q).

Frontier Post,

Raisani accuses Government of pre-polls rigging

Quetta: Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani, President PPP Balochistan, while addressing a press conference has said that the forthcoming elections would not be fair and free because the Government has started blessing nazims and caretaker provincial ministers with development schemes of millions of rupees paving the way for pre-poll rigging.

The News,

Court seeks report on minister running son’s campaign

Nawabshah Dec 8: A returning officer has asked the police to investigate a complaint against a minister of the Sindh government that he is misusing his office to canvass for his son, a candidate for a provincial assembly seat from Nawabshah.

Dawn,

No Possibility of rigging in elections: Amir Hussain

Lahore: Chaudhry Amir Hussain, Speaker National Assembly, has rejected the apprehensions of the opposition parties about possible rigging in the next elections. He added that people are aware of their rights and would elect representatives of their choice.

Pakistan Observer, Daily Jinnah, Daily Ausaf,

Elections would not be fair under the present setup

Islamabad: PPP has received a draft report on the minimum benchmarks for ensuring free and fair elections.

The party noted that there was agreement on:

- Attempt to rig elections,
- Need to form a joint response,
- Need for joint structure,
- Need for joint struggle, and
- Need to identify a future set-up.

Statesman,

Top Punjab Chief Secretary promises free polls

By Ansar Abbasi

Salman Siddiq, Chief secretary Punjab, in a reaction to the fears of rigging on massive level expressed by Farhat Ullah Babar, spokesman of PPP, has held out an assurance that there will be nothing unfair in the coming elections.

He added that the administration is committed and determined to facilitate EC in holding free and fair elections.

The News, Daily Jang,

Nepotism mars credibility of caretakers

By Syed Bukhari Shah

Peshawar: Provincial and federal caretaker set-ups as well as nazims in various districts of the province have fielded their close relatives in the general elections imperiling the neutrality and integrity of the interim Governments.

The News,

Charter of Demand and Ballot Box

By Dr. Waqar Ali

In his regular column "Izhar-e-Khyal", Dr. Waqar Ali has commented on the role of ballot paper and the finalized draft of Charter of Demand, prepared by a joint committee of ARD and APDM.

The author says that democracy is the name of respect for the point of view of the majority and the ballot paper is not only a source of power for the common man but also way forward for the better policies and initiatives.

He further added that Pervez Musharraf has fulfilled the promises with the people of Pakistan and international community, has announced the general elections, and has taken oath as a civilian president.

He further clarifies that the joint committee of ARD and APDM has finalized the CoD and they are willing to participate in the elections provided their demands are approved, otherwise they will boycott the elections.

The author further says that the president of Turkey and several ambassadors have asked the politicians not to boycott the elections, and solve the national problems themselves by gaining mandate through the elections.

Daily Express.

Transparent Ballot boxes for transparent elections

By Abdul Qadir Hassan

In his regular column “Ghair Siasi Batain”, Abdul Qadir Hassan comments on the issue of transparent ballot boxes and transparency in the elections. He says that it is indeed a pity situation for Pakistan that the election process here has made the whole world worried, in particular the EU and Islamic countries. He says that our election commission has imported transparent ballot boxes from China and it is a further extreme situation that in sixty years we are not able even to manufacture these boxes for ourselves.

The article further critically comments on the issues of boycott, transparency in the election processes and the role of Government institutions in this regard.

Daily Express

Punjab Government bans the new developmental projects of District and Tehsil Governments

Islamabad: The Government of Punjab, on the directives from the CEC, has immediately banned the new developmental projects by the District and Tehsil Governments.

Daily Jinnah

District Nazim is running election campaign for his son: Abbas

Gojar Khan: Abbas and Iftikhar Kiyani, candidates for PP5, have accused Raja Javed Ikhlas, District Nazim Rawalpindi, for running the election campaign for his son Qazsim Javed.

Daily Jinnah, Daily Khabrain,

World demands for fair elections and democracy: PPP, PML (N)

Lahore: Sardar Latif Khosa, Senator PPP, has said that if the world is worried about rigging in the coming elections, then that seems to be of no use as they were also worried in 2002. Again this time, the field has been leveled for rigging. If the world is interested in true democracy in Pakistan then they should take some practical steps.

Daily Jinnah

**Government has finalized to rig the elections, we will not let them succeed:
Zulfiqar Malik**

Rawalpindi: Zulfiqar Ahasan Malik, PPP candidate for PP 12, has said that the rivals of MBB are taking support of rigging and are using state resources by any possible means available. He affirmed that They will not the Government rig the elections and will fight till the end for their rights.

Daily Ausaf

Nawaz Cannot be stopped by rigging: Qaisar Sheikh

Islamabad: Qaisar Sheikh, GS of PML(N) oversees, has said that despite the favor for PML (Q) and PPP by the Government, the way for Nawaz Sharif cannot be stopped by rigging in the elections.

Daily Ausaf

**Local Governement can be suspended and Army can be demanded for Elections:
Caretaker Interior Minister**

Karachi: Lieutenant General. Hamid Nawaz Khan, Federal Interior Minister, has said that Governemnt is committed to hold elections on Jan 8, 2008, and is fully prepared to ensure peace and security during the whole process.

Daily Khabrain

Nazims of PML (Q) are using state resources for election campaigns

Islamabad: Leaders of PML (N) have accused the nazims of PML (Q) of using state resources for the election campaigns of their “favorite” candidates.

Daily Khabrain

Benazir is in elections with US consent: Imran Khan

Gojranwala: Imran Khan, Chairman PTI, has said that although BB is accusing for rigging in the elections, she herself is here with the US consent.

Daily Khabrain

**It is possible to get safe of rigging
By Nazir Naji**

In his regular column “Sawere, Sawere”, Nazir Naji comments on the possibilities of how to ensure the elections not to be rigged.

He says that since elections are closed now, therefore, it is in favor of the nation as well as the political parties to let the common man use his right of vote peacefully. There is no need of agitations. The Parties should let the president lift the emergency on 16th December peacefully.

He concludes his column with two broad points:

- There is need of extreme care about the elections scheduled next month,
 - If the political parties want to get rid of rigging, they should unanimously announce that they will cooperate to constitutionalize all the decisions taken after 3rd November.
-

Press Summary, Monday, December 10, 2007

CEC asked to stop PM from interfering in poll process

Karachi: Nawab M. Yousaf, Taj Haider, and Mir Aijaz Hussain, leaders of PPP, in a joint press statement have asked the CEC to stop the caretaker Premier from blatant interference in the electoral process. They further added that conspirancies have been hatched in President house and PM house to rig elections.

They confirmed that the workers of PPP and people would never allow any one to rig the elections and would resist fully in this regard.

Business Recorder, The Nation

PPP CEMC sends complaints to EC

Lahore: the PPP's CEMC has forwarded CEC several complaints it received from various national and provincial constituencies about the violation of the code of conduct for the coming elections.

This report further sheds light on the details of the contents.

Daily Times

The accusations of rigging by Nawaz and BB is a preparation for defeat: Musharraf

Washington: Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan, while answering a question of the CNN representative about rigging accusations by BB and Nawaz sharif, clarified that these statements are in fact a sort of preparation for defeat in the upcoming elections.

Both of the leaders are not sure of their performance in the elections and resultantly, are accusing the Government of planning for rigging in the whole process.

Daily Jang, Daily Express,

Rejection of the nomination papers of Nawaz and Shahbaz is a part of rigging strategy: Amin Fahim

Lahore: Makhdoom Amin Fahim, Senior vice chairman PPP, while addressing a press conference has said that the rejection of nomination papers of Nawaz and Shahbaz is a part of the rigging strategy of the Government, and PPP condemns this act. He urged the opposition to get united and pressurize Musharraf for free and fair elections.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt

The administrative machinery is running campaign for PML (Q): Shabbir Awan

Kalar Saidan: Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry and Shabbir Awan, PPP candidates for PP 5 and PP2, while addressing a press conference have accused the DPO and SP for carrying out

the election campaigns for their close relatives. They further added that they are going to file a written application in this regard to the CEC, caretaker provincial and federal Government and IG Punjab.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt, Daily Khabrain,

Participation of close relatives of District Nazims in General elections, Punjab hits the list

Lahore: Relatives of the District Nazims in Punjab are participating in the coming elections from PML (Q), and this is the reason for a demand of abolition of the local Governments from different political parties.

Daily Pakistan, Daily Jinnah

Candidates of PML (Q) are using state resources: Tasnim Gujar

Jehlum: Chaudhry Tasnim and Nasir Iqbal Gujar, independent candidates for pp 25 and NA 62, have accused the PML (Q) candidates for using state resources in their campaigns.

Daily Express

There is a mega plan to rig the elections: Bakhtyar Maani

Dargai: Said Bakhtyar Maani, former MNA of Jumait-e-Islami, has said that the Government has prepared a mega plan to rig the upcoming general elections.

Daily Aaj,

Nazimeen should be suspended to ensure Fair and transparent elections: BB

Islamabad: MBB, Chairperson PPP, while talking to Foreign Minister of UK on telephone has said that the Government should abolish the local Governments and should ensure there are no Ghost polling stations in the coming elections. She thanked him for the support of UK in the efforts for creating harmony and democracy in Pakistan.

Daily Jang, Daily Ausaf

Tehsil Nazim Taxila is running election campaign for his brothers: Sardar Waqas

Wah Cantt.: Naib Nazim of UC has accused the UC Nazim for election campaign for his brothers. He requested EC to take notice of the issue.

Daily Khabrain

Dr. Amjad is electioneering for PML in Islamabad: Raja Mansoor

Islamabad: Raja Mansoor Ahmad, GS PPP Islamabad, has accused Dr. Amjad, the caretaker minister for interprovincial coordination, of electioneering for PML (Q) candidates.

Daily Khabrain

Local Governments to run campaign for PML (Q) in Rawalpindi

Rawalpindi: In violation of the CEC code of conduct, the local Governments of Rawalpindi have begun the election campaign of PML (Q). District Nazim, Nazim Rawal town, and Nazim Potohar town have begun the election campaign for PML (Q) candidates.

Daily Ausaf

The program finalized for PML (Q)'s victory: Lawyers

Malik Shahbaz Ahmad, former SG Rawalpindi Bar, has said that there is no any chance for free and fair elections. The role of EC, caretaker Government, and President Musharraf is in front of the people, who have finalized program to give PML (Q) a victory in the coming elections.

Daily Ausaf

Tahir Sadiq is running election campaign for his daughter and son in law

Fatah Jang: M. Salim Haider and Ishtiaq Khan, PPP candidates for NA 59 and PP 17, have accused Major Tahir Sadiq, District Nazim Attock, for electioneering of his daughter and son in law. They have requested the CEC to take notice of the matter.

Daily Ausaf

Coordinators of Auqaf have started election campaigns in their constituencies

Lahore: The coordinators of Auqaf have started using state machinery for their favorite candidates in the respective constituencies.

Daily Ausaf,

Elections are proposed to make Musharraf a “permanent” president: Bushra Aitezaz

Lahore: Bushra Aiteza, wife of Aitezaz Ahsan, has accused Musharraf for proposing the election drama to make himself a permanent president. She demanded the release of Aitezaz Ahsan .

Daily Ausaf

Rigging won't be allowed: CM

Thatta: Abdul Qader Halepoto, caretaker CM Sindh, has said that his Government will not allow rigging in the coming elections and would ensure that maximum number of people cast their votes.

Dawn

Transfers made in violation of EC directives

Islamabad: Despite the ban imposed on postings and transfers of Government officials by EC, a number of postings and transfers have been made since November 20. (A detailed list is attached with the report).

Dawn

Candidates violating code of conduct for elections

By Waseem Ahmab Shah

Peshawar: Candidates of different political parties have been openly violating the code of conduct by CEC by putting up hoardings across the provincial capital which are larger than the size specified by EC.

Dawn

CEC should take notice of the violation of CoC: Hakmeen Khan

Attock: Malik Hakmeen Khan, leader of PPP, and others have requested CEC to take notice of the violation of the code of conduct by the District Nazim, Federal minister for environment, and others who are electioneering for their close relatives.

Daily Jinnah

Rigging in elections had started in 1951, only elections in 1970 are considered transparent

Lahore: A detailed report by Tariq Khursheed describes details of the history of elections in Pakistan and the rigging from 1951 onward. The report says that only the 1970's elections are considered transparent while the remaining have been accused of rigging by one way or the other.

Daily Jinnah

It seems funny to expect development from “Benefit-Seekers”: Pervez Ashraf

Gojar Khan: Raja Pervez Ashraf, PPP leader and candidate for national assembly, has said that only PPP can lead the country towards progress and fulfillment of the basic necessities of life. He accused the District Nazim for electioneering, and the Government for extensive use of state machinery.

Daily Ausaf

Police busy in election campaign for ex-CM

Lahore: A number of policemen in official vehicles are busy in election campaigns for PML (Q). Fixing posters and banners, distributing pamphlets, etc. are the few responsibilities they are fulfilling nowadays.

The political sources further added that not only police but the officials of the district Governments are also busy in election campaign for PML (Q).

It is important to note that the former CM Punjab is enjoying full protocol as he used to have as the CM.

The Nation

Ministers, Nazims diluting election transparency

Peshawar: The caretaker federal and provincial ministers and district Nazims are using their official positions to influence voters in favor of their relatives and kin for the coming elections.

This report presents a list of constituencies in NWFP along with proofs of pre-poll rigging.

Business Recorder

Inquiry against caretaker federal minister for electioneering of his son

Peshawar: EC has ordered for an inquiry against caretaker federal minister Nisar Mohammad Khan, for using his official vehicles and his position in the election campaign of his son in PF18. The application was filed by Arshad Abdullah, ANP candidate for PF 18.

Daily Mashriq

Former SA speaker sees no free, fair polls

Former Speaker of Sindh assembly Hussain Abdullah Haroon has said that fair elections are not possible in present scenario. He said that it is the need of the day to restore the constitution and judiciary before holding polls. However, he urged political parties not to boycott and take part in the elections.

Daily Times

PPP issues document on PML (Q) pre-poll rigging

Karachi: The Anti rigging cell of PPP has issued a document containing details of pre-poll rigging by PML (Q).

The ARC of PPP has said that despite the announcements made by the EC and the Government that no rigging would be allowed and despite repeated protest from PPP and other forums, the PML (Q) candidates are busy in various malpractices in connivance with state machinery in Sindh.

The Nation

PPP, PML (N) conspiring against LG system: Pervaiz Ilahi

Lahore: Pervez Ilahi, President PML Punjab and former CM, while addressing a party meeting has said that PPP and PML (N) have been conspiring against the local bodies institutions.

He added that the PML Government has always believed in strengthening democratic process at grass root levels.

The News

The Strategy we opted for restoration of democracy has proved to be correct: Jahangir Badar

Islamabad: Jahangir Badar, SG of PPP, in a statement has welcomed PML (N) decision to participate in the elections, and has said that the strategy of PPP in this regard has proved to be correct and sagacious. He further added that MBB has a principle stand which has won a space for all the democratic forces in the country including PML (N).

Daily Express

Candidates of PPP and PML (N) are crying “rigging” as they are sure of their defeat: Qamrussalam

Kalar Saidan: Qamrussalam, PML (Q) candidate for PP 5, while addressing a gathering has said that the candidates of PPP and PML (N) are sure of their defeat and therefore are accusing others for rigging in the election so as to have an excuse for their defeat.

Daily Khabrain

Former Ministers are using state resources and protocol in their election campaigns

Islamabad: Despite the claims of free and fair elections, few former ministers are freely using state resources for their election campaigns including Sheikh Rashid, Faizal Saleh Hayat, Aftab A. Khan Sherpao, Liaqat Jatoi, and many more.

Daily Ausaf

Qamruzzaman accuses Chaudhry Wajahat for the attack

Islamabad: Qamaruzzaman, PPP leader, has accused Chaudhry wajahat of an attack on him and his cousin.

Farzana Raja, Secretary Information PPP Punjab, in a statement has said that the opposition parties have been pushed to the wall and the planning for rigging the elections have been finalized.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt

District Government and Police are playing a biased role in the election process: Malik Noor Zaman

Tala Gang: Prof. Malik Noor Zaman, PPP candidate for NA 61, has accused the District and Tehsil Nazims for using state resources in favour of PML (Q) candidates. He further accused the Police and administration of the district for being biased in the whole scenario. He requested the EC not to be a silent spectator and should take notice of the issue.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt

Few Government institutions are trying to have 2/3rd majority of Musharraf's allies

Lahore: Few institutions in the country have set a target to have 2/3rd majority for Musharraf's allies in the coming elections, so as to keep the present policies continued.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt

EC to take action on complaints: Benazir

Islamabad: Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson PPP, has said that democracy is the hope for bringing an end to extremism. She added that lack of good governance has been the cause of extremism in the urban areas of the country.

She accused the Election commission of being biased and said that it is not taking action on complaints of fraud and rigging from around the country.

Daily Ausaf

The world needs democracy in Pakistan By Benazir Bhutto

The world has rightly welcomed President Pervez Musharraf's retirement as Army head and his announcement that emergency rule will end on Dec 16. However, a crucial question remains. Is Pakistan heading towards a democratic future? Parliamentary elections are currently scheduled for Jan 8. Among many worrying signs of corruption,

the Election Commission is biased and not acting on complaints of fraud.

Yet, if credible elections are not held, it will have dangerous consequences for Pakistan and the rest of the world community: Extremism will continue to grow, putting everyone at risk. The world must act to prevent this. It must insist on free and fair elections in Pakistan.

President Musharraf's last term in office demonstrated that dictatorship has fuelled extremism. The tribal areas of Pakistan have turned into havens for militants to mount attacks on NATO troops in nearby Afghanistan. Lack of governance has led to the expansion of extremism into settled areas of Pakistan.

Democracy offers the best hope of containing extremism. Yet, democracy depends on a fair electoral process and an independent Election Commission willing and able to implement Pakistan's electoral laws to prevent vote fraud. That is not happening.

"Improvised" voting stations, a pseudonym for ghost polling stations, dot practically every parliamentary constituency. Electoral lists -- prepared with financial assistance from USAID -- are fatally flawed, with more than 10 million unverified and missing names (clearly enough to "win" or "lose" an election). The sanctity of any future ballot is doubtful against reports that district returning officers have been ordered to disperse 20,000 ballots already marked in favour of pro-government candidates. These bogus votes will be "cast" through the process of double voting in the "improvised" voting stations -- in ballot boxes that are translucent rather than transparent.

Mayors continue to control guns and police and government resources and are using them shamelessly to campaign for government candidates. The Election Commission has asked for "a report" on such malpractices but has taken no concrete efforts to stop them.

Politically motivated officials have been placed in charge of the civilian intelligence services and key state posts to manipulate the elections further, although election laws demand that such officials be neutral. An assistant to a former chief minister has been made a returning officer to preside over elections in his area. This complaint is being "looked into" as well, which is simply a fancy way of buying time and doing nothing. Punjab province, which elects more than half of Pakistan's parliament, chooses 148 of the members through direct elections, excluding reserved seats for women and minorities. Of these seats, it is believed that 108 have been marked for rigging for government-backed candidates.

By the time all such reports of fraud come in from across the country, the elections will be over.

On top of all this, the media remains gagged, opposition leaders remain imprisoned, voter lists and voting locations have not yet been provided to opposition parties or to the general public in final print or electronic format, and no effort has been made by the pliant Electoral Commission to regularly consult with political parties on these issues.

There is also no plan in place to ensure that votes counted at voting stations will be delivered to local consolidation centres without being manipulated en route. The National Reconciliation Ordinance, which provides for an immediate consolidated count, has been suspended.

Put quite simply, the elections are being stitched up to give the country a continuation of the outgoing government -- one that failed to prevent the spread of militancy, extremism, and terrorism. Major terrorist attacks, including the latest plot discovered in Germany this

summer, tracked terrorists' footsteps back to Pakistan's northern areas.

Unless there is a change in the status quo, the past will repeat itself. But that change can only come when the world community puts its weight behind fair elections and its faith in the people of Pakistan.

Musharraf sent a delegation to the US last week to talk to the Bush administration and members of Congress about the current situation. This visit was only meant to feign progress and deflect criticism.

Musharraf wants the world to believe that the coming election, though not perfect, will be "good enough for Pakistan" given the country's difficult circumstances. But the current circumstances are of the regime's making. Those in charge can -- and must -- do much better on this count.

The international community must send a clear message that it will not be an accessory to this coming crime. It must not wait to see if the elections on Jan. 8 are free and fair. It must insist on a minimum set of benchmarks to be met for the election to be recognised as free and fair. If the benchmarks are ignored, the international community must be prepared to signal its displeasure to the Musharraf regime in specific, tangible ways. Flawed elections will worsen instability in Pakistan as civil society and political parties protest. Imposing international restrictions after the fact will be fruitless and only deepen anti-American sentiment.

At the very least, America can and should prod Musharraf to give Pakistanis an independent Election Commission, a neutral caretaker administration, and an end to blatant vote manipulation.

America is the world's most powerful democracy. By standing up for democracy at this critical time, Washington can give this nuclear-armed nation an opportunity to reverse the tide of extremism that today threatens not only Pakistan but the larger world community as well.

The News, Islamabad

Official polls results ready

London Dec10: A report consisting estimates by the intelligence agencies, as believed by PPP and PML (N) sources, has revealed detailed results of the elections to be held on January 8, 2008. According to this report the party positions in the coming elections would be as follows:

- PML (Q): 115 seats
- PPP: 90 seats
- MMA: 45 seats
- PML (N): 40 seats
- MQM: 20 seats
- ANP: 12 seats

Dawn, Islamabad

Press Summary, Wednesday, December 12, 2007

PML (Q) rejects rigging charge

Islamabad: Shujaat Hussain, PML (Q) chief, has denied that the coming elections would be rigged in its favor and accused the opposition of making the accusations because it fears defeat at the polls. He added that “Those who talked about the rigging want to see elections postponed”.

The Stateman, The News, The Post, Daily Times,

Don't play spoilsport
By Rizwan Ehsan Ali

Zamarud Khan and Aamir Fida Piracha, opposition candidates for NA 54 and NA 55, have accused Nazims for using their authority in favor of their candidates. While Rashid Shafique, Nazim Rawal town, has rejected the claims of both the candidates and said that he has nothing to do with election campaigns of opposition candidates.

The News,

Candidates in Gujrat being harassed: PPP

Islamabad: Latif Khosa, Incharge EMC of PPP, has accused the families of Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and Pervaiz Ilahi, for harassing Qamaruzzaman, PPP candidate in Gujrat, and obstructing the election campaign using all fair and foul means.

He warned that if Chaudhrys are not stopped they will reply them in the same language they understand.

The News, Business Recorder, Daily Nawa-e-Waqt, Daily Jinnah, Daily Ausaf,

Police, agencies meddling in poll process: FAFEN

Islamabad, Dec 11: Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), an independent group of civil society organizations, has prepared a detailed report revealing that Police and intelligence agencies' officials are actively involved in the election campaign and using different tactics to harass and intimidate candidates and supporters of opposition parties in many districts of the country. This report is based on the information sent by election observers in 178 constituencies of 75 districts. The report contains details of the involvement of Police and agencies in several constituencies.

Dawn, The Post, Daily Ausaf,

Nazim accused of misusing resources

Taxila, Dec 11: Sher Afzal Khan, President PPP Attock chapter, has accused District Nazim Attock of misusing official resources during the election campaign of the candidates of the PML (Q).

Dawn

Tehsil Nazims run kin's campaign

Muzaffargarh, Dec 11: Mazhar Pahoor, Local PPP leader, has said that all Tehsil Nazims are using official vehicles and other resources for election campaigns of their relatives. This report presents details of the involvement of Tehsil Nazims in various Tehsils involved in electioneering for their relatives and PML (Q).

Dawn

PPP opens monitoring in Sindh cell to “expose rigging”

Karachi: Syed Qaim Ali Shah, President PPP Sindh, has inaugurated the office of PPP Sindh Election Monitoring Cell.

At this occasion he charged that PML (Q) and its coalition parties were using Government machinery in election campaigns and also harassing the voters of PPP. He also criticized the interim Government in this regard.

The Nation, Daily Times,

Massive agitation if elections rigged: MBB

Mardan/Islamabad: Benazir Bhutto, Former premier and Chairperson PPP, has said that they would not tolerate rigging in the elections and would launch a massive movement against it. She claimed that some of the forces have prepared to rig the elections. She further elaborated PPP's stance on current political situation of the country.

The Nation, Daily Nawa-e-Waqt, Daily Aaj,

Setting the record straight

By Farahnaz Ispahani

I AM writing this in response to a write-up, ‘Not all PPP nominations welcomed with cheers: reserved seats for women’ (Dec 9).

I am extremely surprised that Dawn would be used for the personal agendas of some. I have had an almost two-decade career of professional media experience – both national and international – so I am not a unknown entity.

However, it is correct that I have never before held any party position whether high or low – with the PPP or any other political party.

My recent entry into Pakistani politics has been spurred by the motivation to be politically active instead of becoming a drawing-room critic of Pakistani polity.

I believe that the PPP and Benazir Bhutto have a clearer vision for a democratic and secular Pakistan, and that is why the PPP is my chosen platform for politics.

Also, attacking my husband (again by unnamed resentful party workers) is on. Husain

Haqqani is an internationally respected academic and has served Pakistan in senior government roles.

But, this linking of all women to husbands, fathers and brothers though is a part of our patriarchal culture that an educated and professional woman like myself tires of. My family has always had an active role in Pakistan's political life.

My grandfather, M. A. H. Ispahani, became a member of Pakistan's first Constituent Assembly in 1947 and my uncle, Zia Ispahani, has also been a politician and former ambassador.

Dawn

PML (N) to fight rigging: Nawaz

Lahore: Mian Nawaz Sharif, PML (N) chief, has said that his party will show strong resentment if anyone make an effort to rig the elections. He added that PML (N) would stand by its demands regarding reinstatement of deposed judges and restoration of pre Nov 3 constitution.

The Post,

We shall neither leave the field open nor let anyone rig: Nawaz Sharif

Lahore: Mian Nawaz Sharif, PML (N) Chief, has accepted that he could not made PPP and JUI agreed to boycott the elections. He accepted that since majority of the parties in APDM coalition were in favor of participation therefore, PML (N) also opt for. He added that they will not leave the field open for the dictatorship and rulers and will not let anybody rig the elections.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt,

District Nazim Jehlum is electioneering with state resources for his uncle: Chaudhry Nasim

Deena: Chaudhry Nasim, candidate for PP 25, has accused District Nazim Jehlum for using state resources and Tehsil Nazims in election campaign for his uncle.

Daily Jang

All satellite Channels should stop live discussions: PEMRA

Karachi: PEMRA has issued a notice to all the satellite TV channels to stop live discussions and taking phone calls from people.

Commenting on the issue, PFUJ has criticized this act of PEMRA and has accused that Government do not want independent reporting during the elections.

Daily jang

PPP welcomes NDI's letter for free and fair elections

Islamabad: PPP media office has issued a statement welcoming the NDI letter to the EC for free and fair elections.

Daily Jang

We shall not leave the field despite rigging: MBB

Taxila: Benazir Bhutto, while in a meeting with Sardar Shoaib Mumtaz PPP candidate for NA 53, has said that they shall not leave the place open despite rigging in the coming elections. Therefore, workers should get prepared for election.

Daily Ausaf,

Government has finalized plans to rig: Ahsan Iqbal, Pervez Ashraf, Hafiz Hussain

Islamabad: PML (N), PPP, JUI, ANP and other political parties have shown their distrust in the EC and interim Government.

They have accused Government for planning to rig the elections, and the EC for being biased.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt

ANP Sawabi have called for suspension of District Nazim

Sawabi: ANP has accused the District Nazim Sawabi for electioneering in favor of his uncles and other relatives, and has requested the CEC and caretaker Government to suspend the district Nazim.

Daily Mashriq

Possibility of joint election alliance: Shah Mahmood Qureshi

Okara: Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, president PPP Punjab, has said that there is a possibility for joint election alliance and seat to seat adjustment with PML (N) while there are reservations for Jumaat –e- Islami among the party in this regard.

He added that those parties that are boycotting elections are in fact strengthening Musharraf's rule.

Daily Khabrain

Malik Qayyom is preparing plans for third martial law: Babar Awan

Islamabad: Babar Awan, PPP senator, has said that MBB has been successful in defeating the conspiracies through boycotting the elections and has a firm stance for restoration of democratic norms in the country.

Daily Ausaf

PML (Q) manifesto a fraud: 5 Es being copied: PPP

Islamabad: PPP has accused PML (Q) of copying 5 Es of its manifesto, and has declared the PML (Q) manifesto a fraud.

Daily Ausaf

Sheikh Rashi Shafiq has started “extensive service” as he gets supports from Sheikh Rashid

Rawalpindi: Former Federal minister and his allies have started extensive work on sewerage and other issues without formal tenders being issued in this regard.

Daily Jinnah

Election 2008: unusually skewed By Nasim Zehra

Even by Pakistan's own standards of inefficiently managed, chaotically contested and not-so-fair elections, Election 2008 promises to be a skewed affair. Pakistan goes into the election after one individual, drawing his power essentially from his position as the Army chief, on Nov 3 opted to become the sole, supreme lawgiver for the country. The only institution to which Pakistanis can turn to, the Supreme Court of Pakistan, was also reconstructed following Nov 3.

Election 2008 promises to be an unusually skewed affair. There is the absence of a level playing field for the opposition. The manner in which the Sindh and Punjab governments have used state resources to promote their party and their candidates just before the interim setup was put in place speaks volumes for fair and free elections. President Musharraf recently stated in a CNN interview that he was not favoring any party. Hard to believe, given that the PML-Q has essentially been Gen Musharraf's civilian team. Those who have even an inkling of the realities of Pakistan's current political scene know the truth. The PML-Q is the King's party. Even if the president now sees the King's party evaporating the fact is that the King's party has, especially in Sindh and Punjab, ensured tight controls over the entire bureaucratic machinery which will be a key factor in the election process.

There is fear of rigging on election day itself whether by harassing opponents, picking them up two days before the elections, or messing with the results. The role of the Nazims at the district level will work against the opposition, and yet the EC is unable to implement its own orders that Nazims cannot participate in the campaigning.

The very specific incident involving the arrest of PPP candidate Sarfraz Bugti reportedly by Military Intelligence on Nov 22, preventing him from filing his nomination papers for a provincial assembly seat in Balochistan, was reported to the Election Commission. The EC was informed by Sarfraz's father Ghulam Qadir Bugti that when he sent his other son, Jan Mohammad Bugti, to file nomination papers for both an NA and a PA seat his nomination papers for the PA seat were forcibly torn by individuals standing outside the office where he went to file his papers. The Election Commission has taken no substantive action. There has been no follow-up to the letter that the EC wrote to the chief secretary of Balochistan. Indeed, the Election Commission is neither autonomous

nor powerful. It does not have the authority or the administrative mechanisms to implement its own orders. Holding accountable powerful provincial chief secretaries is far beyond the EC's capacity and authority.

The News

PPP not to tolerate rigging in elections

Multan: Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, former speaker of National assembly and VC of PPP, while talking to newsmen has said that PPP would not tolerate rigging in the elections and would launch a massive movement against it if elections would engineered, manipulated and rigged.

He added that PPP believes in fair, impartial and transparent election, enabling the masses-elected parliamentarians to run affairs of the country.

Frontier Post,

Rigged vote widely expected: PILDAT

Lahore: Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, ED of PILDAT, has said that the elections in coming month are going to be rigged, and has added that the only thing to be seen is that how extensive that rigging will be.

Zafarullah Khan, ED of CCE, while commenting on the consequences of the rigged electionas has said that "A rigged election would push Pakistan towards chaos".

The Post, The Nation

BB harping rigging mantra smelling defeat: Shujaat

Islamabad: Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, President PML (Q), while talking to newsmen has claimed that the upcoming elections will be held in free, fair and transparent manners and those who have doubts have actually perceived the defeat. He added that Benazir is smelling defeat before polls that is the reason behind giving such statements of rigging in the polls.

The Post, Daily Jang, Daily Express

ECP receives 563 complaints: Kanwar Dilshad

Islamabad: Kanwar Dilshad, Secretary EC, has said that the ECP has received 541 complaints about the code of conduct violations and interference by Nazims while 22 about transfers of Government officials.

He added that these complaints have been sent to the District Returning Officers for necessary action.

The Post, Business Recorder,

LGs likely to be suspended

Islamabad: Justice Malik Muhammad Qayyum, Attorney General of Pakistan, called on President Pervez Musharraf at the presidency and discussed key constitutional matters, the judge's issue, the likely suspension of LGs on the suggestion of various political parties including PPP, and several other affairs of national interest.

According to sources, the LG system would be suspended for one or two months in order to avoid the involvement of district Nazims in the elections. As soon as the proposal gets final approval, President Musharraf will announce the suspension of LG system.

The Post,

Rigging in the elections

By Dr. A. R. Khan

Nobody else can best answer the question of "what is rigging?" than the people of Pakistan, writes Dr. A. R. Khan in his regular column.

This nation, according to the article, has seen several such incidents in its history and now no one can deceive it that easily. This nation has witnessed in 1977 that how Governments rig in various different ways.

The article further identifies few of the possible ways for rigging in elections:

- Government kidnaps opposition candidates to give a chance to few favorite candidates,
- Government give responsibility to a specific person or group that has to identify those constituencies where rigging can be an easier option,
- Government do not opt for rigging in each of the constituencies, but specifies few constituencies,
- Government gets benefit of the postal ballots as well.

The author claims that in the process of 2008 elections, none of the above means have yet been utilized and therefore, one can easily see that the elections are going to be free and fair. He further argues that press is independent and free, Government has invited monitors from UN and other agencies, and most of the political parties are participating as they are sure the elections will be free and fair.

Daily Mashriq, Daily Pakistan

Benazir calls for foiling 'poll rigging' plan

Peshawar, Dec 12: Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson PPP, has called upon the people to frustrate what she called the king's party's plan to rig the coming elections.

She said that she is without guns, bombs and tanks and have the strength and support of the masses.

She accused the military dictators of harming the solidarity and integrity of the country.

Dawn, Daily Pakistan, Daily Express

Nawaz slams Chaudhry for using public money

Sialkot, Dec 12: Nawaz Sharif, former premier, while addressing a public meeting has said that it is the time to held PML (Q) accountable for spending public money on “self eulogizing” publicity campaigns. He added that the upcoming elections would be meaningless if the judiciary was not restored. He accused PML (Q) for destruction of judiciary and killing of innocent people. He claimed that it is quite clear that the elections would be rigged.

Dawn

No chance of rigging in polls: Musharraf

Islamabad: Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan, has ruled out the chance of rigging in the coming elections. He said that those creating hue and cry over alleged poll rigging would be disappointed. He added that all the parties have been provided level-playing-field.

The News, Daily Nawa-e-Waqt,

Election Commission seems working under the Government directives: Farzana Raja

Islamabad: Farzana Raja, Secretary Information PPP Punjab, has said that despite the complaints of pre-poll rigging, EC is is not taking notice of administrative matters, transfers, and campaigns by the Government officials for candidates. She accused the former CM of extensive use of Government vehicles and resources. She added that EC has not yet shown voters list on the website and political parties are not given information about the polling stations. She claimed that they have information of changing polling stations at the eleventh hour.

Daily Ausaf

In Gojar Khan, election campaign is run with state resources: Raja Pervez Ashraf

Islamabad: Raja Pervez Ashraf, SG PPP, has accused District Nazim Rawalpindi of using state resources for the election campaign of his son in Gojar Khan.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt

Government ha to do more for transparent elections: Zulfiqar Malik

Rawalpindi: Zulfiqar Malik, PPP candidate for PP 12, has said that the Government has to do more to ensure transparent elections. He added that PPP and other democratic forces shall not let the elections to be rigged.

Daily Khabrain

NDI sends recommendations to EC

Islamabad: National Democratic Institute (NDI) has sent a letter to the EC detailing recommendations of political parties about free fair and transparent elections. These recommendations deal with the issues of Composition of the ECP, voter lists, list of polling stations, code of conduct, misuse of state resources, role of intelligence agencies, repeal of PEMRA laws, and ban on public rallies.

Business Recorder

Rigging or not

In a letter to Dawn, Dr. P. Nasir has drawn a sketch about rigging in the election process in several countries and has concluded that there has been a tradition of rigging in Pakistan.

Dawn

Pre-poll rigging

In a letter to the News, Noore Zaman has accused President of addressing a selective audience in TV shows in Aiwan-e-sadar, and favoring King's party and MQM. Mr. Noor-e-Zaman has demanded that the show should be stopped in view of the charges leveled by the opposition parties regarding pre-poll rigging.

The News

The Defining Moment

By Burhanuddin Hassan

“It is a good omen that after long and arduous haggling, the three major parties -- the PPP, the PML-N and the JUI-F -- have decided to participate in the elections while the Jamaat-e-Islami and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf are still sticking to their stand of boycotting the polls. The PPP, the PML-N and the PML-Q are likely to win majority seats in Punjab while the PPP along with the PML-Q and the MQM will bag maximum number of seats in Sindh, particularly Karachi. The JUI, like previous elections, will win majority of seats in NWFP. The Balochistan Assembly is expected to have the same mix of seats as it had in the previous elections.

The APDM, which was an unnatural alliance of so many political parties with divergent views and policies, has died its natural death, but the country has got a healthy and competitive combination of political parties of the right and the left to form a fully empowered parliament. Now that stage has been set for elections to be participated by all major political parties, it is imperative that the government should ensure free, fair and transparent polls for the credibility of the democratic process. Ms Bhutto has given a timely call to the international community to send a clear message that it will not be an accessory to the crime of electoral rigging in Pakistan. It must not wait to see if the elections on Jan 8 are free and fair. It must insist on a minimum set of benchmarks to be met for the elections to be recognised as free and fair. If the benchmarks are ignored, the international community must be prepared to signal its displeasure to the Musharraf regime in specific and tangible ways.

The president has accepted all the major demands of the political parties except the restoration of the Supreme Court judges. He should swallow this bitter pill in the larger national interest. After all, he had admitted that filing of the reference against the chief justice was a mistake which opened the Pandora's box of lawyers' agitation and consequent human rights abuses which are still continuing. If the president preaches reconciliation to political parties, he should apply it to himself as well to pull this thorn out from the nation's flesh. There is hardly any doubt that no true democratic system can work without rule of law and an independent judiciary. One may as well add in this freedom of the media of which he himself claims to be the champion.”

The News

Transparent Elections and its requirements

By Hakim Syed Mahmood Ahmad

In his regular column, the writer has pointed out few important points regarding the prerequisites of transparent elections. The important points of the article are:

- Political parties have not accepted the caretaker Governments but they have to contest elections under the same Governments,
- To make these elections transparent, the whole nation, along with political parties, have a due role to play,
- Unfortunately, till date there have never been transparent elections in the country,
- Political parties, Masses, Media, and intellectuals have to play their due role to ensure transparent elections.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt

Caretaker Government wants to influence elections through Nazims?

In his report from Quetta, Abdul khaliq has pointed out the issue that the political parties accuse that nazims are being used to influence the elections, and in past this nation has experienced the same involvement in political processes.

Daily Jang

NIC: Millions of people have to stay aside from elections

Islamabad: The Election Commission of Pakistan says computerized identity cards will be compulsory in the upcoming polls for citizens to cast their vote.

This decision has resulted into the fear of excluding millions of people from the election process.

Daily Jang

Political strategy of BB

The magazine article discusses the current political situation of the country and accuses BB for conducting elections with US agenda, and that is why she is, according to the report, crying “rigging” from the vary beginning.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt

US has reservations on rejection of Sharif brothers’ nomination papers

Lahore: Brine De Hunt, Principal officer US consulate, has said that US has reservations on the rejection of nomination papers of Nawaz Brothers.

He added that it is necessary to participate in elections as an imperative for peace and stability.

Daily Express

Nazim, Naib Nazim can contest polls after resignations

Lahore: An election tribunal of Lahore High Court has announced that a Nazim or naib Nazim can contest elections after resignation from his office.

The bench also said that it is not necessary that a UC Nazim or naib Nazim must resign before he/she filed his nomination papers to qualify for contesting in the elections.

Business Recorder

PPP declines rigging chances

Okara: Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson PPP, while in a meeting with Rao Khalid Mustafa, PPP candidate for PP 189, has said that rigging was the manifesto of PML (Q) , but PPP has brought down the chances of Government rigging in the elections to zero point. She added that all the international institutions and observers who had been closely observing and monitoring the election process in Pakistan had reached the conclusion that the Government was playing every dirty game to deck crown of sovereignty on the head of only one party.

Frontier Post,

Election monitors fear rigging of polls

Islamabad: Prospects for a free and fair election next month are poor and a rigged result could lead to more instability and play into the hands of militants. Opposition parties are also complaining that the caretaker Government is biased.

Ahmad Bilal Mehboob, ED of PILDAT, has said that “We do not see elections to be as free and fair as they should be in the context of the overall framework...conditions have been created in which there is a very strong tilt in favor of certain parties.”

Sarwar Bari, SG of FAFEN, has said that “The whole setup is being established in order to support a particular party.”

The United States has said that this month the elections could be fair provided the emergency was lifted. Losers of Pakistani elections have a history of crying foul.

Statesman, Business Recorder, Daily Times

Government should suspend local bodies to ensure free and fair elections: Rabbani

Islamabad: Mian Raza Rabbani, Deputy SG PPP, has said that the Government should suspend the local bodies in order to ensure free and fair elections in the country. He added that the EC has failed to perform its constitutional duties and obligations of holding free and fair elections. He commented that the caretaker Governments are extensions of the previous PML (Q) regime. He warned that the people of Pakistan would not accept the result of rigged elections and this would lead to greater political instability after January 8.

Daily Times, The News, Dawn

LGs to be suspended in a couple of days: Nisar A. Memon

Nisar A. Memon, Caretaker Federal minister information, has said that a decision to suspend LGs would be taken within two days. He added that the Government would provide conducive environment for the coming elections according to the desires of EC.

Daily Times

PPP alleges rigging in Khairpur

Karachi: Manzoor Wasan former MNA and PPP candidate on PS 32, has charged Pir Sadruddin Shah Rashdi, Provincial president of PML (F), with using government resources for his party's election campaign.

Daily Times

PML (Q) candidates blamed for using state resources

Islamabad: The News has received complaints about former MNA Nasirullah Dreshak and Farhat Mazari of being escorted by DSP Rojhan in official vehicles. The Nazims too were going out of their way to accommodate these two politicians.

The News

Caretaker Government not to influence polls process: Musharraf

Islamabad: President Pervez Musharraf has said that neither he nor caretaker Government is influencing electoral process in any way and neither will do so in future. He hoped that after lifting the emergency all the political parties will play their proactive role in holding of peaceful elections.

The News

ECP lacks transparent, effective monitoring: Political parties

Islamabad: At a roundtable organized by CCE and NDI, representatives of various political parties voiced concern at lack of transparent and effective complaint monitoring and resolution system and flayed the ECP for its failure to update them about the electoral process.

The Nation, Daily Express

PPP, PML (N) embark on 'plan-B' to counter rigging

In a bid to counter rigging of elections by PML (Q), opposition parties have start preparation that may unite them in the form of a “democratic alliance” to launch a mass movement against the regime.

PPP, PML (N), and APDM have already agreed to ensure district level co-ordination in order to stay prepared for the mass movement against Musharraf.

The Nation

We have finalized our program to stop rigging in the elections: Nawaz Sharif

Turbela, Ghazi, Haripur, Wazirabad: Mian Nawaz Sharif, PML (N) leader, has said that PML (N) will not support President Musharraf after the success in election and added that the workers of PML(N) have finalized programs to stop rigging in the elections.

Daily Jang, Daily Express, Daily Mashriq, Daily Pakistan

There is no question of rigging in the elections: Musharraf

Islamabad: Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan, while talking to Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and Wasi Zafar, has said that there is no question of rigging the coming elections and the elections will be free, fair and transparent.

Daily Khabrain

Nazims of PML(Q) are by-passing code of conduct: Jaafar shah, Khurram Pervez

Rawalpindi: Jaafar shah and Khurram Pervez, PPP candidates for NA 42 and PP 6, have accused the PML (Q) Nazims of by-passing the Code of Conduct and have requested the EC to take notice of the issue.

Daily Ausaf

Efforts to “Rig the elections” shall be countered: Abida Hussain

Islamabad: Abida Hussain, former federal minister and PPP leader, while talking to “Ausaf” has said that efforts to rig the elctions shall be countered and the party has finalized strategy for this purpose.

Daily Ausaf

Local Governments are electioneering for PML (Q): Shah Khawar

Rawalpindi: Shah Khawar, PPP candidate for PP 12, has accused the local Government of electioneering for PML (Q) and have requested the suspension of these institutions.

Daily Express

Government Machinery is electioneering for PML (Q): Zamarrud Khan

Rawalpindi: Zamarud Khan, PPP candidate for NA 54, has accused the government officials of violations of code of conduct in NA 54, NA 55, and NA 56, and has urged to contact EC in this regard.

Daily Jang

District Nazim Jehlum is electioneering for relatives with official protocol

Pind Dadankhan: Raja Ali Zaman and Faiz ahmad Faiz, PPP candidates for NA 63 and PP 27, have accused the district Nazim of electioneering for his relatives with official protocol.

Daily Jang

PML (Q) will face defeat; State machinery should not take part: Israr Shah

Islamabad: Dr. Israr Shah and others of PPP have said that PML (Q) will face a defeat in the elections and the government officials and machinery should not take part in the whole process.

Daily Jang

Despite the usage of state machinery, Defeat is waiting for PML (Q): Chaudhry Ayaz Amir

Chakwal: Ch. Ayaz Amir, PML (N) candidate for NA 60, has said that PML (Q) will face a defeat in the elections despite the fact that state machinery has extensively being used in their support.

Daily Jang

Accusations of rigging is only a Drama?

Karachi: “Capital Talk” of Geo News will discuss the issue of rigging in its show on 14th December.

Daily Jang

Nazims pushing King’s cart in Hassanabdal

Taxila, Dec13: PML (Q) with over 90% Nazims and councilors seems to be the only party in the business of electioneering in Hassanabdal.

The opposition parties are accusing the administration of facilitating the PML (Q) candidates and allowing them to use official machinery in the election campaign.

Dawn

PM’s sister accused of using state machinery

Jacobabad, Dec 13: Illahi Bux Soomro, former NA speaker, has accused Ms Maliha Malik and Fahad, sisters of caretaker premier, of using state machinery against him in their election campaign.

Dawn

Rigging or not

In his letter, Dr. P. Nasir has tried to give a comprehensive sketch of the history of rigging in the elections and has concluded that there has been a tradition of rigging in Pakistan’s political history.

Satesman

Rigging assemblies to remain no longer

Okara: Azhar Iqbal, Naib amir of JI Punjab, has claimed that the bogus assemblies formed by rigged elections would die a natural death on their first session. He called the political parties for boycotting the coming elections.

Frontier Post

Suggestion of LGs suspension

Malik Qayyum, AG Pakistan, according to a TV report has discussed several important constitutional matters with president Musharraf. President Musharraf has asked him for his point of view regarding suspension of LGs.

Political parties have the same demand of suspension of LG bodies, so that they may not affect the election process. At present District and town Nazims in several districts are involved in electioneering for their relatives or other favorite candidates.

Daily Mashriq

Majority wants Musharraf to quit

Washington: International Republican Institute (IRI) has published the polls survey results which show that 83% are opposed to emergency rule, 67% want Musharraf to resign, and 70% say that Musharraf's Government do not deserve to be re-elected.

This report outlines the details of the Poll survey.

Daily Times

Qazi accuses rulers of rigging

Newshehra: Qazi Hussain Ahmad, President MMA and Amir JI, while addressing district bar association has alleged that rulers have prepared the election results before holding elections. He further alleged that the agencies were interfering in the country's politics. He hoped that the entire nation will support the boycott and reject the elections.
The News, Dawn, Daily Ausaf, Daily Pakistan, Daily Jang

Officials transferred, posted in violation of ECP directives

Peshawar: In violation of the ECP directives, the NWFP government has transferred and posted a number of officers and junior employees even after the announcement of the election schedule.
The report further identifies several cases in this regard.
The News

Local bodies to remain functional

Wah Cantt: Gen. (R) Khalid Maqbool, Governor Punjab, has said that the local Governments will continue working during the elections.
The Nation

LG members involved in polls can lose jobs

Islamabad: Kanwar Dilshad, Secretary EC, has said that the local Government members including Nazims and naib Nazims found guilty of involvement in election rigging would be disqualified and might lose their jobs. He added that the Government is also considering suspension of Nazims and other LG members before the polls to ensure level-playing field to the candidates. He revealed that the number of complaint has crossed the 500 figure.
The Post, Daily Express, Daily Jinnah,

Caretaker Government accused of favouritism

Sialkot: Khwaja Mohammad Asif, Central Joint Secretary of PML (N), has alleged that caretaker Government and administration are fully involved in favouritism and supporting near and dears in elections.

He added that the Devolution plan of the Government has totally been flopped and the districts were looting ruthlessly public funds with both hands.

Business Recorder.

Governeemnt officials canvassing for candidates

Khairpur, Dec 15: Ms Nafisa Shah, former District Nazim, has claimed that the EDO education Khairpur has been canvassing for PML (F) candidates and distributing offer letters. She alleged that the district administration Khairpur was also pressuring Government employees for rigging.

Dawn

Dareshaks accused of using state resources

Dera Ghazi Khan, Dec15: Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, PPP central leader and former caretaker premier, has condemned the alleged use of Government resources by Nasrullah Dareshak and his sons in their campaign in Rajanpur district and urged EC to take notice of the violation of the code of conduct.

Dawn

Civil war if polls rigged

Quetta: Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson PPP and former premier, has warned that if elections were rigged the country will face a civil war like situation. She said that PPP would not allow the local administration and Nazims to rig the polls. She condemned the murder of Baloch leaders.

The Nation

Accusations of rigging are for 'political benefits': Dr. Abdullah

Islamabad: Dr. Abdullah, Federal minister for information technology and telecom, has rejected the accusations of biasness and rigging in the elections. And has said that these are solely for the purpose to get some political benefits.

Daily Jang

Decision to run campaign in Pakistani elections: Chaudhry Majeed

Rawalpindi: Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, President PPP Azad Kashmir, while addressing the PPP central executive committee has said that if the coming elections were rigged there will be a bloody revolution in the country. It was decided in the meeting that PPP Azad Kashmir will also run an election campaign in the coming elections.

Daily Ausaf

Accusations of rigging from few political leaders are baseless: Musharraf

Islamabad: President Pervez Musharraf, while addressing the nation, has claimed that the accusations of rigging from several political leaders are baseless. He requested the political parties to main peace and law and order in the election campaigns.

Daily Pakistan

Citizen's group demands suspension of LGs

Islamabad: Citizen's Group for election (CGEP) has requested lawyers and civil society to play an active role in the elections to make it transparent and fair.

Daily Jinnah

Government should stop MMA from rigging in Bannu: Malik Nasir Khan

Bannu: Malik Nasir Khan, candidate for national assembly, has accused MMA for pre-poll rigging in Bannu and has requested the Government to take notice of the issue.

Daily Mashriq

Free and Fair

In his letter, Naeem A. Khwaja has requested the President to clarify whether the elections would be completely free and fair or there will be some exemptions for PML (Q).

The Nation

Rigging? Yes, by the US

By Humayun Gauhar

They say that one sign of the fall of a nation is when its people can no longer tell the difference between right and wrong. Another sign is when they cannot differentiate between a true friend and a user. When the user is camouflaged in friend's clothing, he becomes even more dangerous. And when he starts interfering in how you should run your affairs and even demands what your government ought to be, who it should comprise and exploits your weaknesses to break all principles to include the corrupt in it, then the user becomes a virtual occupier - without firing a shot.

The elections are pre-rigged when high US officials say so or imply it. The elections are pre-rigged when the US forces the Pakistani government to withdraw all cases, here and abroad, against Benazir. They are pre-rigged when Nawaz Sharif and his brother are disqualified from contesting elections (they don't want him cutting her, after all) but not her. Would they do this with a former corrupt US leader? When they find that she cannot win on her own steam, they cry rigging and pre-rigging. The entire US strategy of bringing Pakistan and its nuclear assets to heel would go down the drain if Benazir doesn't become prime minister. Their mantra is: "If Benazir wins, the elections are fair; if not, they are rigged." It's as simple as that. Of course, all this begs the question: "Why do we cave in to harmful US demands." Ah! dear friends, therein lies a story - a long and sad story of weakness of faith and the continuing colonization of the mind.

The Nation

Press Summary, Monday, December 17, 2007

Government has planned to rig the elections: Benazir

Quetta: Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson PPP and former premier, has accused that both the EC and caretaker setup are biased and are influencing the elections. She said that the plan to rig elections has finalized, and PPP will make them face failure with the support of the common man. She accused that the agencies are compelling PPP candidates to draw back their nomination papers.

Daily Express, Daily Aaj,

If elections were rigged, we will go for a country-wide movement: Shah Mahmood

Multan: Shah Mahmood Qureshi, President PPP Punjab, has said that if elections were rigged PPP will go for a country-wide movement and all the opposition parties shall be included in it.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt, Daily Khabrain,

Impeachment of the president is possible with 2/3rd majority in elections: Latif Khosa

Islamabad: Sardar Latif Khosa, Chairman PPP EMC, while addressing a press conference has said that the new elected parliament will closely look into all the constitutional amendments made in Musharraf rule, and will make the constitution a federal, parliamentary and democratic document. He added that rigging in the elections will lead the country to chaos.

He accused the ruling party of extensive use of state machinery. He said that lifting the emergency is a positive sign but Musharraf is biased in the election process.

Daily Jinnah, Business Recorder,

EC receives 503 complaints

Islamabad: The ECP has claimed that so far it has received 503 pre-poll complaints regarding violation of election code from candidates and political parties.

However, PPP has challenged the figure saying that some 1100 complaints have been submitted by the party alone.

Dawn

Benazir demands free and fair elections

Quetta: Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson PPP, has said that there are serious impediments in the way of holding free and fair elections. She added that the EC was not independent and has failed to take action on several complaints submitted to it. She further added that there was no neutral caretaker setup and the Government machinery was being blatantly used to manipulate elections. She claimed that only masses can foil motives of Government and undemocratic forces by correct utilization of their votes in coming elections.

Frontier Post, Pakistan Observer, Business Recorder,

EC to remain neutral: Kunwar

Islamabad: Kunwar Dilshad, Secretary ECP, has dispelled fears of rigging in the forthcoming elections and reiterated that EC would remain completely neutral during the elections.

Pakistan Observer

Elections will be fair and on time: Owais

Quetta: Owais Ahmad Ghani, Governor Balochistan, has assured that general elections would be held in time and all major political parties are participating.

Pakistan Observer

Boycott elections and let the US conspiracy fail: Qazi

Nowshehra: Qazi Hussain Ahmad, President MMA and Amir JI, has asked for a boycott of the Fraud elections and has said it is better now than having agitations after the elections.

Daily Aaj,

US want Pakistan to have a 'Puppet-Government'

Swat: Siraj ul Haq, Amir JI NWFP, has accused that US wants a puppet Government in Pakistan and those who are participating in the elections are helping US agenda fullfilled.

He added that those participating in the elections will also cry rigging afterwards, therefore, better is to boycott the elections and opt for a united struggle.

Daily Aaj

We are here not to win but to expose Governments plans to rig: Nawaz Sharif

Sahiwal: Mian Nawaz Sharif, PML (N) leader, has said that PML (N) is participating in elections not for the purpose to win but to expose the Governments plans of rigging the elections.

Daily Khabrain

BB inherited politics of rigging; PPP is interested only in ruling the country: Pervez ilahi

Lahore: Chaudhry Pervez Ilahi, President PML (Q) Punjab, has said that PPP is interested only in ruling the country and have no any interest in the development and welfare of the people. He added that PML(Q) have strong candidates and will sweep in the elections.

Daily Khabrain, The Nation,

Independent judiciary, freedom of media and release of political workers, necessary for transparent elections: Canada

Otawa: Canada has stressed Pakistan to ensure free, fair and transparent elections. It further stressed the independence of judiciary, release of all those imprisoned during emergency, and freedom of media, so that free and transparent elections be ensured.

Daily Khabrain

EC issues notice to those candidates violating CoC

Lahore: Spokesman for EC has said that ECP has issued notices to national and provincial assembly's candidates in the entire province for violations of EC CoC.

Daily Khabrain

Dissolve local bodies

In his letter, Asmaar bilal has discussed the issue of suspension of LGs in the country and has stressed that if the final decision to suspend or not to suspend the LGs has been taken it should be made public immediately.

Pakistan Observer

Rigging Complaints

Dr. P. Nasir, in his letter has written that in 1997 the then president Farooq Laghari had said that elections had been rigged in the past but will not be allowed anymore. But despite his claim, there were proofs of election rigging when the elections were held. The letter further requests the president to have a deeper look at the consequences of rigging the elections before becoming partial and biased with one group or other.

Pakistan Observer,

PPP releases report on poll rigging complaints

Islamabad: Tariq Malik, PPP IT advisor, and members of PPP EMC have released a report on rigging in the elections.

They said that PPP has received dozens of election rigging complaints in the last three days and all these complaints have been sent to ECP.

The Post

MQM sabotaging our campaign: PPP anti-rigging cell

Karachi: PPP's anti-rigging cell has accused MQM of removing its banners from various parts of Karachi.

The cell further alleged the Police of ignoring the provocations despite the complaints made by PPP candidates.

Daily Times

Ex-minister accuses DN of campaigning for his family

Attock: Malik Amin Aslam, former minister of state and independent candidate for NA-57, has accused Maj. (R) Tahir Sadiq, District Nazim Attock, of running the election campaign of his daughter, son-in-law and brother-in-law for the three NA seats of District Attock.

The News,

PPP accuses ECP of ignoring piles of complaints

Islamabad: Sherry Rahman, PPP Information Secretary, has accused ECP of moving at a snail's pace in replying to piles of party complaints in the run up to the general elections. She further revealed details of the complaints presented to ECP.

The News, The Post, Daily Times, Daily Express

Q-League banking on rigging charges: Shahbaz

Lahore: Shahbaz Sharif, President PML (N), while talking to newsmen has said that the Q-League was banking on rigged polls but the nation would foil it and January 8 would prove to be a referendum against it.

The News,

PML (Q) planning ghost polling stations

Karachi: Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson PPP and former premier, has alleged that the Government has prepared a plan to rig the upcoming elections especially in Punjab in favor of PML.

She added that "For a wide scale rigging throughout the province, the ghost polling stations have been set up... There are 148 seats in Punjab and the Government has been told to give 108 seats to them. That means we'll only be fighting over 40 seats."

The News, Business Recorder

DPO Jacobabad blamed for pre-poll rigging

F.P. Report

Jacobabad: Since the announcement of the schedule for the 2008 general elections that DPO Jacobabad Muneer Khuhro has become a party in the pre-poll rigging and instead of being DPO he seems performing duties as protocol officer of the PML (Q) candidates in Jacobabad.

Frontier Post

Charge of Partiality

Editorial

As desertions in the PML-Q increase, the latest being of former Federal Minister Jehangir Tareen, the opposition's complaints about the use of the state machinery to buttress the ruling party's election campaign also multiply. Speaking to the press at Quetta airport, Ms Bhutto accused the security agencies of putting pressure on her party's candidates to withdraw from the elections much the way they had done in 2002. Mian Nawaz Sharif has also complained that the government machinery is being used to support the PML-Q. The Election Commission and the caretaker set-up are being generally accused of partiality.

EC is reported to have received 412 complaints against nazims' partiality. The opposition has long demanded the suspension of local bodies till the end of the elections to stop their resources from being used to help the former ruling alliance. Many had expected an announcement to that effect on the lifting of Emergency. As this was not done, there is an urgent need for the Commission to take action on the complaints lodged against nazims.

Both the major opposition parties have warned the people of election rigging, calling on them to be ready to start a movement in case this happened. With the courts purged of independent judges and the media subjected to restrictions putting limits on free reporting, doubts are being expressed about the polls' fairness. What US Secretary of State, Dr Condoleezza Rice, said on her way to Paris on Sunday underlines that some of President Musharraf's foreign supporters are also not completely satisfied with the way the elections are being organised. She stressed the need for the President to ensure that the opposition parties enjoyed freedom to hold meetings, moved freely and had access to the media for their campaign, for the polls to be seen as free and just.

The Nation

Musharraf regrets polls rigging charges

Vehari/ Bahawalpur: President Pervez Musharraf, while addressing a public meeting, has expressed his firm commitment to hold absolutely free, fair and transparent elections. He added that no one should have any doubts about it. He regretted the boycott of elections

by some political parties and termed it unfortunate that some political parties had started leveling the charges of rigging even before the elections.

The Post, Daily Express,

Accusations of rigging by BB and Nawaz are baseless: Nisar Memon

Islamabad: Nisar Memon, Caretaker Federal Minister for information, has claimed that the accusations about rigging in the elections by Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif are baseless, and the general elections shall be fair and free. He welcomed the decision of monitors of elections from around the world and said that the Government will provide visas for all of them.

Nawa-e-Waqt,

Tehsil Nazim Jand is using official vehicles with black Number plates for the election campaign of Pervez Ilahi: Sardar Mumtaz of Basal

Sanjwal Cantt.: Sardar Mumtaz of Basal, PML (N) candidate for PP-19, has accused the District Nazim and Local Government officials for electioneering of PML (Q) candidates. He requested the ECP to suspend the local Governments and take notice of the issue.

Daily Khabrain

Eroding credibility of elections

Editorial

It is extremely unfortunate that some politicians have started crying foul even at the start of the election process. PPP chairperson is leading the chorus of rigging in elections while a number of other politicians including Qazi Hussain Ahmad is also talking frequently about possibility of massive rigging.

Prospects of rigging are always there even in the advanced countries. Candidates and their supporters try to use every possible means to get maximum number of votes but to speak of the rigging plan prepared by the Government is ridiculous. Why the president or caretaker Government would involve themselves in such a highly dangerous plan that could discredit the elections and spark off another phase of tension and confrontation?

Pakistan Observer

We are not using state resources for our election campaign: Shujaat

Islamabad: Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, President PML (Q), has said that PML has its candidates from all the constituencies and there is no room for seat to seat adjustment with any political party. He further rejected the accusations of using state resources for the election campaign of PML (Q).

Daily Express

Election officials and people to foil all attempts of rigging the polls: MBB

Hyderabad: Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson PPP, has asked the election officials and people to foil all attempts of rigging the poll.

The News, Daily Mashriq,

Front formed to resist rigging in Attock

Attock, Dec18: Fifteen candidates from different parties contesting elections in Attock have formed a front to resist alleged pre-poll rigging in favor of the former ruling party. These candidates are from PPP, PML (N), MMA, including independent candidates.

Dawn,

Shujaat rejects opposition leaders' rigging charges

Islamabad: Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, president PML (Q), while talking to the state-owned TV has said that those fearing imminent defeat in the forthcoming elections are leveling rigging charges in advance as a face saving tactics in the post election scenario.

The News

Government will hold 100% fair, transparent polls

Rawalpindi: Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, former federal minister and PML (Q) candidate for NA 55 and NA56, has said that Government will hold 100% fair and transparent elections. He added that there is no reality in accusations of rigging by the opposition parties. He further added that opposition political parties should focus on their election campaigns instead of blaming the Government.

Daily Times

President should stop canvassing for PML (Q)

Editorial

Speaking to a PMLQ audience in Vehari Monday, President Pervez Musharraf appealed to the people to “vote for candidates who had been with him in the past”. He also exhorted the rest of the parties in the opposition to accept the coming elections as free and fair and stop their “blame game” against him. As he made his blatantly partisan speech, it was difficult to imagine that any opposition party taking part in the elections would believe him. To achieve minimal credibility he should have remained “presidential” in the orthodox sense.

Meanwhile, in an interview given to a foreign newspaper, Ms Benazir Bhutto has revealed something that the PMLQ may not like too much: that the government — now under President Musharraf — would like the PMLQ to win the elections but would want a prime minister from her party. But, she declared, her party “will not buy into it” as it

would be a device to legitimize the January elections: “They would like to say we had an election, and now we’ve got a legitimate government and we have got the country’s most popular party on board”.

To get suitable results, the president must arrange for completely fair and transparent elections, instead of stumping for “his own party” as he did in Vehari. It is true that the PMLQ has been docile in double harness with him, but he must learn to take some disagreement too in his next innings which is not going to be all plain sailing.

Daily Times

578 complaints about code violation

Islamabad: ECP has, so far, received around 578 complaints from all four provinces in connection with the violation of code of conduct. ECP authority has sought reports from the authorities concerned on the complaints.

The Nation, Daily Nawa-e-Waqt, Daily Jinnah, Daily Ausaf, Daily Mashriq

The thick bond between Nazims and PML (Q)

Islamabad: The kith and kin or favorites of different district and Tehsil Nazims are contesting the coming elections across the country, especially in Punjab.

The role of District Nazims and local bodies machinery is becoming more and more controversial as elections are getting closer.

The report further discusses details of the relatives of Nazims contesting the coming elections.

The News

PML (Q) campaign

In his letter to the News, Col (R) Riaz Jafri has written about picture of the policemen carrying PML (Q) billboard, and a police van which had satck of similar hoardings on it. He further asks that is this the “level-playing field” that the president and those in Government have been talking about.

The News

Elections will be rigged to ensure success of PML (Q): Benazir

Mirpur Khas, Hala, Bhat Shah, Shahpur Chakar: Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson PPP, in her different public speeches has said that the country shall be at risk if the results of elections were manipulated. She claimed that the coming elections will be rigged at a larger scale to ensure success of PML (Q).

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt

Benazir may have rigged in her times, I am not opting for rigging: Musharraf

Mianwali, Washington: President Pervez Musharraf has said that Benazir Bhutto might have opted for rigging in her times, but he is not the kind of person. He added that he is prepared to work with Benazir as well.

Daily Khabrain

District and Provincial Governments should remain impartial to ensure fair elections: Shahid Gilani

Islamabad: Syed Shahid Pervez Gilani, Leader Shabab-e-Milli, has said that the provincial and local Governments should remain Impartial to ensure free and fair elections. He added that in present situation where local Governments are their with full authority, it seems difficult to have a level-playing-field for all the political parties.

Daily Jang

Suspension of local bodies after Eid-ul-Azha

Faisal abad: According to reliable sources, the Government has decided to suspend local bodies after Eid-ul-Azha to ensure transparency in the coming elections. The decision has been taken on the basis of requests and complaints by the political parties accusing the local Government officials of using state resources in election campaigns of the candidates.

Daily Khabrain

Transparent elections is the only way out for peace and prosperity Editorial

The editorial of Daily Jinnah raises questions about the support of President for his allies, and his requests for casting votes in favor of his favorite candidates. The editorial, however, concludes that the president should ensure proper consultations with all the political parties and should respect the consent of the common man.

Daily Jinnah

The question of credibility of elections

By M. Khalid Yousaf

In his regular column, Mr. Khalid Yousaf has raised the issue of credibility of the coming elections, and has concluded that the partiality of President Musharraf has made the election's credibility at stake, and if this situation prevails then the country may lead to a very difficult situation.

Daily Jang

Everything is fear in an election

Lahore: Gujrat has everything that makes an election in rural Punjab – Money, guns, police, thuggery, Nazims, biradaries, and family influences. Add the name of Chaudhry Wajahat Husain to this combination and you have a compelling feeling of insecurity and fear pervading the population across the two national assembly constituencies – NA-104 (Gujrat City) and NA-105 (Jalalpur Jattan). This feeling intensifies as you move deeper into the rural parts of the district.

As we move about the city, we heard a number of stories of coercion and intimidation of opponents by the Chaudhry family in the last five years when they ruled the province. The Chaudhrys unleashed a reign of terror in this city to wipe out their opposition, many people told us.

The PPP was visible occasionally in the shape of party flags and banners hung by its candidates. Its workers alleged that the police and local government staff had removed the PPP flags and banners of its candidates from various parts of the city. Some said the party candidates were reluctant to spend money. Others said the PPP men fighting the election could not match or even come close to the Chaudhrys when it came to spending on election. The PPP candidates thought that a silent 'revolution' was cooking up in Gujrat against the alleged highhandedness of the Chaudhrys and their "goons" in Gujrat, which will ultimately turn the tables in their favour on the polling day. Some of them felt that the upcoming election will throw up some surprises for the Chaudhry family that was hoping to form its government both in Islamabad and Lahore after the elections. Many in the PPP were banking on the possible suspension of local governments and removal of the bar on its leader Benazir Bhutto from becoming prime minister for a third term as it would change the party's perception among the voters.

Dawn

PPP sure of win despite ‘pre-poll rigging’

Peshawar, Dec19: Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan, PPP provincial information secretary and candidate for NA-3, has said that despite misuse of state resources, the king’s party and its regional allies will fail to win the coming general elections. He accused PMLO-Q of using state resources and influencing District Nazims to make pre-poll rigging across the country. He further added that PPP leadership had been identifying the loopholes in the election process but neither the ECP nor the Government was paying attention to their complaints. He hoped that security forces and election staff would foil all negative plans of rigging.

Dawn

Hashmi accuses Government of pre-poll rigging

Multan: Javed Hashmi, senior vice-president of PML-N, while addressing a public meeting has accused the rulers of pre-poll rigging for the victory of PML-Q. He further added that PML-Q was an offspring of rigging and therefore, it was afraid of contesting the elections. He urged the nation to be courageous and throw away the group of generals from politics.

The Post,

‘Q’ accused of using negative tactics

Rawalpindi: AAmer Fida Paracha, PPP candidate for NA-56, has alleged that ECP has failed to take any action against the PML-Q candidates who were using local Government representatives and pressurizing the voters in the name of ‘protocol’.

The Nation

Governor House involved in rigging: Shahbaz

Lahore: Shahbaz Sharif, President PML-N, has alleged that the Government is operating a rigging network at the Governor House Punjab to manipulate election results according to its desires. He added that IB was also involved in this shady business. He further vowed to foil all such plans with the support of the masses.

The Nation, Business Recorder, The News,

Fair polls not possible: Human Rights Watch

Islamabad, Dec 19: New-York based Human Rights Watch in a report titled “Destroying Legality: Pakistan’s crackdown on lawyers and Judges” has said that free and fair elections in Pakistan are “impossible” following the dismantling of an independent judiciary and a crackdown on critics by President Pervez Musharraf.

Dawn, Business Recorder, Statesman,

EC to probe Punjab bureaucrats’ role

Islamabad: ECP has taken notice of the allegations leveled by Shahbaz Sharif, President PML-N, against two senior bureaucrats, GM Sikandar and Hasan Wasim Afzal. It is expected that CEC will take up the matter with the Governor of Punjab through an official communication.

The News

Polls will be fair: EU delegation assured

Islamabad: Qazi Muhammad Farooq, CEC, has assured a visiting EU delegation that the upcoming general elections would be free fair and transparent.

The News

Civil Society launches ‘people’s agenda’ for polls

Islamabad: Insaani Huqooq Ittehad, a network of civil society organizations, has launched ‘people’s agenda’. Apart from several detailed points, the agenda demands that the ECP should be composed of all stakeholders and be able to exercise full authority without fear. It further demanded that there should be no role of intelligence agencies in the political processes, and inner democracy within the political parties should be made mandatory.

Dawn

No Party will be allowed to use state machinery

Lahore: Nisar Memon, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, while addressing a seminar has said that Government will adopt a string of measures to ensure free, fair and transparent elections and no political party will be allowed to use state machinery in the election campaign. He added that local Governments are part of the constitution, and now the constitution is restored and the PCO is repealed, therefore Local Governments shall not be suspended.

Business Recorder, Daily Express

Police, agencies being used in favor of PML-Q candidates: FAFEN

Islamabad: Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) has issued a report saying that police and other state security apparatus are generally being used in favor of PML-Q candidates. FAFEN has deployed coordinators in more than 250 national assembly constituencies.

The report further outlines details of the regional reports by the coordinators.

Business Recorder

EC receives 587 complaints

Islamabad: The EC has received a large number of 587 complaints about misuse of state machinery by district administration, including Nazims and DCOs and posting and transfers of civil servants to influence the coming elections.

Business recorder,

Elections 2008 fail on pre-polls fairness'

Karachi: The Citizens Group on Electoral Process (CGEP) has observed that on all counts the coming general elections fails on pre-election fairness. The group noticed that the sum total of the prevailing conditions created by the Government was not conducive for holding free and fair elections.

The Nation

PML-Q is taking support of Nazims after the uniform: Farzana Raja

Lahore: Farzana Raja, PPP information Secretary Punjab, has accused PML-Q of pre-poll rigging and has named ECP as a Post Office. She said that PML-Q is a corporation and its job is to ensure political bargains.

Daily Jinnah

Nazims should not have any role in general elections: Mushahid

Islamabad: Mushahid Hussain Syed, SG PML-Q, has said that Nazims should not have any role in the general elections. He urged that there should not be rigging in the elections otherwise the country will face serious consequences. He requested all the political parties to carry out their election campaigns effectively.

Nawa-e-Waqt, Daily Express

January 8 will announce an end for PML-Q, We shall work together with Nawaz Sharif for Democracy: Benazir

Nawab Shah: Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson PPP, has said that the differences between her and Nawaz Sharif are a matter of past now, and that she will work together with Nawaz Sharif for Democracy in the country.

She claimed that the masses shall ensure to foil the rigging plans throughout the country.

Nawa-e-Waqt

Accusations of rigging are baseless: President Pervez

Islamabad: President Musharraf has assured once again that the coming elections shall be free, fair and transparent. He added that there is no chance of rigging and the returning officer in each constituency shall announce the polling results and these results shall be updated on website.

Daily Jang, Daily Express

ECP takes Notice of use of state resources in election campaign

Islamabad: ECP has issued directives to the federal and provincial Governments to stop Government officers and police from taking part in the election campaigns.

Daily Jinnah

Neither the president is electioneering for anyone nor any embassy has filed complaints: Foreign Office

Islamabad: The Foreign Office spokesman has said that President Pervez Musharraf is not electioneering for any political party, and clarified that no any embassy has filed any complaint in this regard.

Daily Jinnah

Use of State resources in election campaign, application challenging Pervez Ilahi filed in EC

Lahore: Hanif Tahir, President Peoples Lawyers Forum, has filed an application in EC against Pervez Ilahi, accusing him of usage of state resources for election campaign and buying votes for 1500 PKR.

Daily Jinnah

Workers should stop every attempt of rigging: Chaudhry Nisar

Rawalpindi: Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, PML-N leader and candidate for NA-52, 53, has asked the workers and masses to foil every attempt of rigging in the coming elections.

Daily Express

New ways of rigging, Independent candidates shall be given success: Rehman Malik

Lahore: Rehman Malik, PPP leader and former DG FIA, has claimed that he has got information of new ways of rigging in the coming elections. According to him majority of Independent candidates shall be made successful in the elections. He said that till date they were demanding the suspension of the Local Governments but now they are demanding the abolishment of these institutions as in the case of suspension they will be equally influential.

Daily Nawa-e-Waqt,

Transparent elections: Demands of Newspapers' editors and former judges

By Irshad Ahmad Haqqani

In his regular column "Harf-e-Tamanna", the author has outlined the demands presented in the resolution of Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE). The resolution states that although emergency has been lifted but the ban on electronic and print media is still there. The resolution further states that in presence of pressures and ban on media, the transparency of the coming elections has become a question mark.

At the same time several former judges of the supreme court have formed an organization for the struggle of rule of law in the country, and have stated that an individual has not any right to amend the constitution and that Supreme Court has the right to interpret the constitution.

The author concludes with the hope that Government and President Pervez Musharraf shall pay due importance to the demands of both, the newspapers' editors and former judges of the supreme court.

Daily Jang

The Right Thing

By Kamila Hyat

Already, post-poll scenarios are being discussed. The media reports that the assembly which will take shape has already been drawn up, down to the last detail, with a large number of seats to be allotted to both the PML-Q and the PPP, provides some insight into plans. Many predict that the next National Assembly will indeed be a 'hung' one, giving President Musharraf a great deal of power in the maneuvering and negotiation that will be required to form a viable coalition government.

The doubts regarding the transparency of the process of polling, which under Pakistan's constitution is supervised by the judiciary, has also added to the question marks over the election. But, regardless of all these factors, the polls will produce a parliament of one kind or the other; the house elected will play a role in future political events in the country and the various parties will be engaged in the task of vying for influence, whether on government benches or in the opposition.

For these reasons, it is important to keep in sight what the 'right thing' is and what meaningful goals for the country should be, even if it does not seem possible to attain these immediately. In this sense it is encouraging that the lifting of emergency has been recognized widely as just another step in the game of an autocrat, the setting up of yet another smokescreen, and not as the significant event official circles have attempted to portray it as. If there were any doubts on this count, they have been removed by the president's declaration that 'agitation' would not be tolerated and curbs on the media

would not be lifted. It is unclear how these threats fit in with the agenda of 'enlightened moderation'.

The News

Press Summary, Monday, December 24, 2007

BB wants army to check rigging

Larkana: Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson PPP, while addressing a large public gathering has demanded deployment of military and rangers at polling stations to check rigging. She added “We will not allow bogus polling stations, bogus votes and rigging through police and private forces.”

She demanded the Government to immediately suspend the local Governments to ensure free and fair elections.

She further added that President Musharraf has promised that there would be no rigging in the elections and polls would be free and hoped that he would keep his promise.

Statesman, Frontier Post,

Vehari Nazim accused of misusing state resources

Vehari, Dec 23: Rival candidates has accused District Nazim Vehari and three Tehsil Nazims of using official machinery to get public support for their favorite candidates in sheer violation of election code of conduct.

Dawn

PML-N starts rigging allegation after seeing its defeat: Durrani

Islamabad: Muhammab Ali Durrani, former minister, while talking to GEO –a private television – has said that the leadership of PML-N is doing politics of blame after seeing clear defeat in the upcoming general elections.

He added that PML-N is trying to cover the upcoming defeat and embarrassment to the party in the elections by leveling allegations of rigging.

He further added that in presence of free media and foreign observers from across the world, there remains no question of rigging in the polls.

Pakistan Observer,

Shahbaz says rigging charges very much true

Lahore: Mian Shahbaz Sharif, central president PML-N, has said that charges of rigging in the elections were very much true as the election campaign of PML-Q was being run by millions of rupees of loot money. He warned the Government officials not to involve in rigging otherwise they will be accountable in the time to come.

Statesman, Daily Jinnah

The science of election-rigging in Pakistan

LAHORE: A photograph carried recently in Pakistani newspapers showed a policeman in the Lahore putting up a banner of the political party that supports President Pervez Musharraf. It was a stark illustration of the allegations made by Pakistan's opposition of the use of the state apparatus in favour of the party that has ruled for the past five years, according to an article published on December 21 in The Globe and Mail.

Clear-cut signal: Karachi-based political analyst Ikram Seghal estimated that manipulation would nearly double PML-Q's votes to around 75 seats, out of the 342-seat national parliament. However, he said that the party's goal of 110 seats, which would almost certainly make it the largest single party, had been scotched by the army, which is no longer led by Musharraf. "The PML-Q does not have the support of the army in the rigging. ... This time, there is a deliberate clear-cut signal from the army that it does not want to be involved in this," he said.

According to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), which is not regarded as independent by the opposition, it has received around 600 official complaints from candidates. The commission said that although it had investigated many of them, it had not found a single case where action, beyond a simple warning to a transgressor, was required. A Western diplomat said that, at the district level, the Election Commission's local offices had little staff or equipment - no vehicles to go and investigate complaints or computers to log them.

Daily Times

Nazims, caretaker setup to rig January polls: Jhagra

Peshawar: Iqbal Zafar Jhagra, SG PML-N, has said that the efforts were underway to rig the upcoming elections through the caretaker Government and Nazims. He accused PML-Q of using caretaker Government, Nazims and councilors in the elections.

Daily Times

Perfect plan for rigging elections

F.P. Report

Immaculate sources including a ticket holder of PML (Q) who is considered very close to the Politicians of Gujrat have informed The Frontier Post, that a plan is indeed in place where the outcome of the general election is all but a decided factor even before the people have exercised their right to vote for the candidates of their choice. According to

the details obtained from these sources PML (Q) will win 115 National Assembly seats, Pakistan Peoples Party will be given 90 seats in the National Assembly, MMA will get a quota of 45 seats, leaving PML (N) with 40 seats, MQM 20 and ANP will only have 12 winners in the contest for the National Assembly. Translated into reality this would mean that the King's Party with the support of MQM and Maulana Fazl-ur Rehman's MMA will have a comfortable majority of 180 National Assembly members enough to become the party of first choice that is invited to form the government. However, who ever is the author of this plan has forgotten that very recent opinion polls taken by respected International and Domestic polling houses have found that PML (N) had a support of 36 percent of the population while Peoples Party was supported by 32 percent of the people of this country. Similarly PML (Q) had a support of 18 percent of the population, MMA had the support of 7 percent of the people and ANP matched MMA with a slight edge of 9 percent support among the people of Pakistan. On the other hand the MQM was expected to win the same number of seats that it won in the elections of 2002 as support for that party continues to be static. The plan to rig the elections, if true, will definitely defeat the very purpose of the holding of the coming general elections on January 8 and could result in a colossal damage to the country as well as the process of democracy.

Frontier Post

PPP accuses Nazimeen of manipulating elections

Multan: Muhammad Latif Khosa, Incharge PPP EMC, has said that they have collected sufficient evidences against the nazimeen, former federal or provincial ministers and the same shall be submitted to ECP as well as foreign and national media. He added that he visited the ECP offices reminding them about the pending complaints of his party. According to him ECP has refused to take an immediate action against any one of the incumbent district, city district, town, and Tehsil nazimeen, being accused of manipulating the elections, unless detailed reports are being sent by DROs to ECP.

Business Recorder

Rigging ruled out

In his letter to the Statesman, Asmaar Bilal appreciates the decision of announcement of polls results by the concerned returning officers on the spot. He hopes that if this decision was strictly implemented there will be no chance of any Hanky Panky as the polling agents of the candidates will be present on the occasion to challenge the RO on the spot on the basis of facts and figures available with them.

Statesman

Free elections

Editorial

STATEMENTS by poll watchers, both local and foreign, indicate that few are willing to buy promises about the coming elections being fair and free. Serious concerns have been expressed in this regard by the New York based Human Rights Watch and Karachi based Citizens Group on Electoral Process. A common perception is that honesty cannot be guaranteed alone by transparent ballot boxes, empowering the Returning Officer to announce results or by putting these on the EC's website. A number of vital preconditions are absent. Unless verbal guarantees are supported by vital measures they would fail to satisfy the people.

Ms Benazir Bhutto has called upon the Election Commission to take note of agencies pressurizing PPP candidates to drop out of the electoral contest. The opposition's demand to suspend the local bodies has not been accepted. With a vast majority of Nazims affiliated with the PML, complaints continue to appear in the media that they allow the public resources at their disposal to be used to help their favorite candidates. With the President, caretakers and the majority of Nazims favoring the PML, the polling staff drawn from government departments could be used to manipulate the elections. Free media, which plays a crucial role in ensuring free and fair elections continues to face restrictions on reporting and comments. Under the new rules TV channels can neither present live coverage of events nor telecast live talk shows. They are also debarred from taking live calls. Conditions vital for holding fair and free elections are thus missing.

The Nation

The accusations of rigging are there for 46 years, The coming elections will be transparent: Kanwar Dilshad

Lahore: Kanwar Dilshad, Secretary ECP, has said that the presence of two thousand foreign monitors, trained staff of ECP, brochures, and transparent ballot boxes shall ensure free and fair elections.

He added that since 1951, political parties and politicians have accusations of rigging in the polls, and each time ECP tries its best to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

Daily Jinnah

Workers should burn down the polling stations where there is rigging: Zafar ul Haq, Javed Hashmi

Rawalpindi: Raja Zafar-ul-Haq and Makhdoom Javed Hashmi, leaders of PML-N, have asked their workers to keep an eye on the overall process on the Election Day and if they think of rigging in any possible means they should burn down the polling stations.

Daily Jinnah, Daily Ausaf

Previous rulers should not dream of success through rigging: Amin Fahim

Lahore: Makhdoom Amin Fahim, Snior vice Chairman PPP, has said that PPP is a symbol of federation and does not play the cards of regional politics. He claimed that previous rulers should not dream of success through rigging and that PPP will sweep the elections as it truly represents the poor and down-trodden class of the country.

Daily Jinnah

**Results should be announced at the polling station: PML-Q
Even then there will be rigging: PPP, PML-N**

Lahore: The results should be announced at the polling station? Different political leaders have answered this question in different ways. Leaders of PML-Q have a positive answer adding that it will ensure transparency in the election results. While leaders from PML-N and PPP have claimed that rigging will be there whether the election results are announced on the spot or not.

Daily Jinnah

We shall spoil the rigging plan: Naheed Khan

Islamabad: Naheed Khan, Political secretary of Benazir Bhutto, has said that PPP will spoil the plans of rigging in the elections.

Daily Ausaf

The plans of rigging shall be countered with “people’s power”: Jahangir Badar

Okara: Jahangir Badar, Central GS PPP, has claimed that the rigging plans on 8th Janury shall be countered and spoiled with the support and power of the people.

Daily Ausaf

No one has the authority to suspend Local bodies: Sherafgan

Chakwal: Dr. Sherafgan, former federal minister, has said according to the constitution nobody has the authority to suspend local bodies at this moment.

Daily Express

PPP election Monitoring Cell meets on 26th December

Lahore: Chaudhry Munawwar Anjum, President PPP EMC, has called for an urgent meeting of EMC Punjab, to finalize strategies for the elections particularly regarding how to stop rigging.

Daily Express

There are no concrete measures for transparent elections: Former US senator

Washington: Tom Denly, former US senator, has said that despite lifting the emergency and handling the Uniform issue, Pakistan has not taken any concrete measures to ensure transparent elections. He further added that Government has not considered four points included in the NDI report regarding elections.

Daily Jang

Election code of conduct should be taken care of. Editorial

The editorial focuses on the violation of code of conduct in the elections and concludes that both the Government and the political parties should give supremacy to the rules and regulations and the in particular the code of conduct for elections, so that peace and harmony can be ensured both before and after the elections.

Daily Jang

Promise of transparent elections shall be fulfilled Editorial

The editorial focuses on the promises by the president, the Government and the ECP, to ensure transparent elections. The editorial adds that despite the allegations of rigging and

accusations of violations of CoC, the president, ECP and caretaker Government have several times repeatedly announced that they are trying their best to ensure free and fair elections. The editorial concludes that political parties should fully engage in the political processes and the code of conduct for elections should be strictly followed.

Daily Khabrain

Rigging and ECP

By Abid Mukhtar Khattak

In his regular column, the author has raised the issue of accusations of rigging and the role of ECP. The author says that PPP, PML-N, PML-Q and others are busy at the same time in accusations of rigging on each other and their election campaigns. The author concludes that the tradition of accusations of rigging has been there in the politics of South Asia, therefore the political parties should concentrate on their election campaigns giving supremacy to the code of conduct for elections, and thus foster democratic culture in the country.

Daily Pakistan

Has rigging been there?

By Shamshad Mangat

In his regular column “De-briefing”, the author points to the report of UN monitors on the coming elections in Pakistan, in which it has been stated that rigging has taken place in the election processes in Pakistan. The report, according to the author, also accused PML-Q of using state resources for the campaign. The author further accuses the Police of being busy in electioneering for PML-Q.

Daily Ausaf
