



BY-ELECTION

OBSERVATION REPORT

PB-07 Ziarat

ZIARAT BY-ELECTION RECORDS LOW INCIDENCE OF VIOLATIONS

ISLAMABAD, March 26, 2017: By-election on a Balochistan Assembly constituency in Ziarat (PB-07) on Sunday was observed to be managed well in terms of control over campaigning around polling stations and procedural irregularities.

While party camps around polling stations was a rare scene in the constituency, election administrators, however, could not control over unchecked provision of transportation facilities to voters by political parties and candidates. Similarly, the issue of bar on accredited observers persisted in Ziarat by-election, too. Observers of Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), duly accredited by the ECP could not observe the polling proceedings at three polling stations as they were denied entry by security personnel deployed outside polling stations.

Observers deployed by the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) reported relatively lower incidence of violations in the by-election that followed a peaceful campaigning period, tough contestation, heavy deployment of law enforcement personnel and at least one incident of minor violence involving workers of two political parties at Polling Station No. 48.

Apart from bar on observation at three polling stations, FAFEN observers reported, though low in number, incidents of illegal campaigning, breach of voter's secrecy and untrained staff doing election duty.

A total of 24 incidents of violations were reported by FAFEN observers from 19 out of 59 polling stations with an average of 1.3 violations per polling station. This average is lower than the average violations recorded in the last by-election held in PP-78 Jhang in December 2016.

Supporters and workers of all major political parties and contesting candidates were observed to be providing transportation to voters. Reports of unauthorized persons accompanying voters behind the voting screen were received from two polling stations while at one polling station, election officials deployed said they had not received any training from the ECP for the conduct of election.

CONSTITUENCY HIGHLIGHTS ...

REGISTERED VOTERS

There were 59,728 registered voters in the Ziarat Constituency. Among them, 32,405 were male and 27,323 were female voters.

BY-ELECTION 2016

| MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 32,405 | 27,323 | 59,728 |

POLLING STATIONS (PS)

ECP established 59 polling stations in the constituency. Among them 15 polling stations each were established for male and female while 29 combined polling stations were established. A total of 131 polling booths were set up for the by-poll.

| MALE PS | FEMALE PS | COMBINED PS |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 15 | 15 | 29 |
| 131 POLLING BOOTHS | | |

MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES

As many as eight candidates – five having party tickets while three independent candidates contested the by-poll.



TOTAL CONTESTING CANDIDATES

| MALE | FEMALE | TRANSGENDER |
|------|--------|-------------|
| 8 | 0 | 0 |

The by-election was necessitated after the death of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl's (JUI-F) Gul Muhammad Dumar. Five parties and three independent candidates ran for the by-election in the constituency known for traditional run between JUIF and Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP).

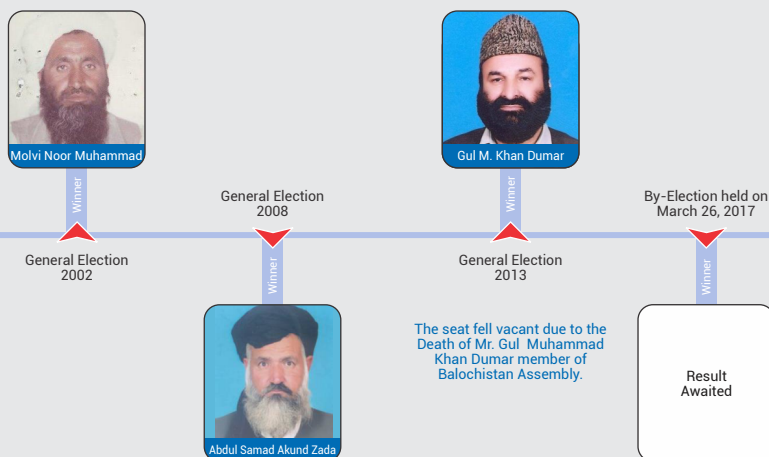
For the by-polls, FAFEN trained and deployed nine non-partisan citizens to observe the polling processes at 59 polling stations. However, this preliminary report contains information acquired from 19 polling stations from where FAFEN could acquire information promptly on Election day. Observers underwent training to observe the opening, voting, closing and counting processes at the polling stations.

CONSTITUENCY HIGHLIGHTS ...

POLLING PERSONNEL

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| PRESIDING OFFICERS | 59 |
| ASSISTANT PRESIDING OFFICERS | 131 |
| POLLING OFFICERS | 131 |

TIMELINE OF ELECTIONS



ELECTIONS' HISTORY

| GENERAL ELECTION 2013 | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| VALID VOTES | REJECTED VOTES | VOTER TURNOUT |
| 32,256 | 1,055 | 63.4% |
| GENERAL ELECTION 2008 | | |
| VALID VOTES | REJECTED VOTES | VOTER TURNOUT |
| 20,803 | 580 | 32.0% |
| GENERAL ELECTION 2002 | | |
| VALID VOTES | REJECTED VOTES | VOTER TURNOUT |
| 19,630 | 914 | 39.6% |

The constituency registered a 20% increase in the number of registered voters for by-election as compared to general election 2013. There was an overall increase of almost 21% in the number of women voters in constituency between 2013 and 2017 with 104 of the 113 census blocks showing increase in the number of women voters while five census blocks showing decrease in the number of women voters. There was no change in number of women voters at four census blocks.

ELECTION OBSERVERS DEPLOYED

| MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|------|--------|-------|
| 9 | 0 | 9 |