

Democracy Vibes

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Concerned poll chief steps down

August 01, 2013. ISLAMABAD - Chief Election Commissioner Justice (r) Fakhruddin G Ebrahim has stepped down, a day after he supervised the presidential election, maintaining in his resignation letter that he has quitted to give a chance to the next CEC to lead the next general elections.

This comes as sudden yet long pondered over development linked to CEC's reported reservations over the Supreme Court's role regarding the electoral issues and cases pending with the court – including lawmakers' dual-nationality and fake degree issues, and local bodies' elections. According to ECP insiders, in course of related proceedings in several cases, the SC judges, particularly Chief

Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, had passed audibly strong remarks about the ECP management.

"The CEC was not happy. He had a clean career throughout, and he was not accustomed to this kind of treatment," the officials said. "And the SC decision to change the presidential election date was the last nail in the coffin."

Fakhruddin, however, avoided offering a direct comment on the actual cause behind his stepping down. "I am too old now, I want to take rest," he told The Nation. He said he would pursue his career in law profession. "I am a professional lawyer but gave up practice the moment I became CEC. I'll resume my professional career and work on my pending



commitments."

Requested to comment on the reported reservations about SC role in election issues, the retired judge said, "I don't want to get into it. I just hope everybody plays their role for the betterment of democracy and prosperity of Pakistan."

Read More: <http://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2013-08-01/page-1/detail-3>

Govt respects mandate of all parties: Nawaz

August 01, 2013. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday said his party respected the mandate of all parties given by the people of Pakistan in May 11 elections. Talking to reporters in Karachi, the PM termed smooth democratic transition a good omen for the country. "With such terrorism, extrem-

ism and violence, it is good news that Pakistan is now on the democratic path," he said.

To a query on Karachi lawlessness, Nawaz said several meetings had been held on security issues and it would take some time to form a coordinated policy. "Terrorism is in every province and I have

talked to the chief ministers to devise a counter-terrorism policy," he added.

Read More: <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/08/01/news/national/govt-respects-mandate-of-all-parties-nawaz/>

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Pakistan needs Marshall plan for economic revival: Zardari

August 02 - President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday, called upon the international community, especially the United States, to step forward and prepare a 'Marshall Plan' for Pakistan for economic stability and advancement of Pakistan's development agenda. "The people of Pakistan suffered greatly as a result of the ongoing fight against militancy and terrorism and there is a need for the international community to give our people the peace dividend by way of massive

economic assistance, energy development and greater market access," the president said during his one-on-one and delegation level meetings with John Kerry, the US Secretary of State, at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The president stated that the credit for the first-ever smooth power transfer goes to the democratic forces, all the political parties, parliament and all the people of Pakistan for enthusiastic participation in the electoral process despite threats from militants



and extremists. He said the smooth transition reflected the democratic ethos of the people.

Read More: <http://images.thenews.com.pk/02-08-2013/ethenews/t-24536.htm>

SC, Imran stick to their guns



Aug 03 - ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday did not accept Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf chairman's explanations for uttering

scandalous remarks against the judiciary and gave him until August 28 to resubmit a detailed reply, saying it was not a matter of personal ego but of the respect and dignity of the institution of judiciary.

The bench headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry and comprising Justice Jawwad S Khwaja and Justice Azmat Saeed

heard the contempt of court case. Imran Khan, who allegedly declared that judiciary's role in the general elections was 'shameful', presented verbal and written replies but the court deemed them 'insufficient'.

Read More: <http://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2013-08-03/page-1/detail-1>

Democracy has a bright future in Pakistan: Ban

August 14- ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Secretary General (UNSG), Ban Ki Moon has expressed hope that democracy will deliver to the people of Pakistan.

He termed transfer of power from one civilian government to another in a smooth

manner a good omen for the system. He felicitated the people of Pakistan and members of the National Assembly on successful and smooth elections in May last. Addressing a dinner hosted by the National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq in his honor in the Parliament House on Tuesday

evening, the world body chief eulogized the role of Pakistani troops in the cause of world peace and security in various parts of the world.

Read More: <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-195806-Democracy-has-a-bright-future-in-Pakistan-Ban>

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NA body to probe vote ‘rigging’

August 16 - ISLAMABAD: In an unusual show of concord to settle discord, the government and opposition parties in the National Assembly agreed on Thursday to set up a multi-party house committee to probe complaints of rigging in the May 11 elections and suggest electoral reforms to evolve better checks.

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan assured the house that all government agencies would help the committee in carrying out its investigation, which he suggested cover up to 40 Na-

tional Assembly constituencies in all the four provinces of the country rather than just four constituencies as demanded by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan.

With agreement from both the treasury and opposition benches, Deputy Speaker Murtaza Javed Abbasi, who chaired the proceedings at the time, asked leaders of all parliamentary groups in the house to name their party representatives for a meeting with the house speaker



on Friday to formulate the proposed committee's terms of reference — a task he said could be completed in three days.

Read more: <http://dawn.com/news/1036173/na-body-to-probe-vote-rigging>

Right to Information law enforced in KP

August 19 - PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Sunday said that his party would cooperate with the federal government in eliminating terrorism as it had agreed to the PTI's agenda on counter-terrorism.

Talking to The News after launching the Right to Information Law at a hotel here, the PTI chief said with the promul-

gation of the law, the common people would not only have access to information about the performance of government departments, but also could check irregularities and malpractices of government functionaries.

“The right to information is the first step towards transparency, accountability and good governance,” he said, and added that

he would interfere in the affairs of the provincial government as he wanted a true and ideal democratic government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Read more: <http://images.thenews.com.pk/19-08-2013/ethenews/t-24867.htm>

ECP announces official by-election results

August 24 - ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Friday announced the official results of the country's largest by-polls and ruling party Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) once again topped the electoral race by winning 18 of the 39 national and provincial assembly seats.

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Awami National Party (ANP), which had fared poorly in the general elections despite being in the ruling coalition for five years, seem to be awakening while the Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf's (PTI) ‘tsunami’ seems to have receded. It is interesting to note that the highest voter turnout was

recorded in Balochistan's Jhal Magsi constituency at 70.06 per cent whereas the lowest turnout was recorded in Silakot at 18 per cent.

Read More: <http://dawn.com/news/1037796/ecp-announces-official-by-election-results>

