



The day before

WITH political parties instructed yesterday to suspend their campaigns at the stroke of midnight, the 'pre-poll' part of election 2024 stands completed.) All that is now left is for the votes to be cast and counted and for a winner to be declared. It is slightly disconcerting how suddenly this election seems to have passed us by. The past two months already seem like a haze of court cases and stop-start political activity. For the longest time, one was unsure if polls would be held, and there were fears of another delay. It was not until about three weeks ago that campaigning began in earnest. Initially, the *jalsas* and rallies were damp affairs. The energy, enthusiasm and richness one usually associates with elections in Pakistan remained missing. It felt as if everyone was merely going through the motions; that a commitment to the process was missing.)

Much of this was due, perhaps, to the prevailing impression that it was not a fair fight. Out of the two parties that consistently polled among the top two that voters intended to support, one was not allowed to campaign. Most of the attempts made by the PTI to mobilise were met with arrests and intimidation. Thereafter, it moved its activities online, where its innovations not only helped it survive, but may have also put it in a position to mount a real challenge. The other party, the PML-N, only hit the road towards the tail-end of the campaigning period. Indeed, it seemed at one point that it would need a push to start participating, considering how disinterested its leaders were. To its credit, the PPP was the only national party that actually took campaigning seriously. It started much earlier than the others and was able to maintain its energy throughout.)

Just as the momentum seemed to be picking up, however, time had to be called. Today, voters will discuss and debate their choices with their families, friends, neighbours and fellow citizens. Tomorrow, they will speak through the ballot box. The PML-N seems to be in a comparatively strong position after its late burst of activity, and because it seems to have the backing of powerful forces within the state. It will be an uphill struggle for the PTI, which is contesting without its traditional symbol and wasn't able to canvass. Still, the party has shown spirit throughout, and it can pull off an upset if its voters mobilise.) The PPP may prove a dark horse in this race. Even with its support base outside Sindh having dwindled over the years, its deal-making abilities have often seen it beat the odds. It understands better than most how to get ahead. Who will prevail? Not long to go before we find out.)

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Polls Ahead

Accompanying -the Pre-poll part of Election 2024 all campaigns were suspended yesterday.

Now its time to declare winner through votings. Keeping in view the past 2 months everyone was unsure, if, elections were to be held. yet the energy of Elections remained missing that might be due to the unfair impression of Elections not letting one of the leading party campaign.

yet PTI managed it through shifting their campaign online and people were in high spirits. Whereas PML-N isn't that involved in campaign as they seems to be in stronger position supported by powerful forces. Meanwhile

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PPP seems to be in strong position in terms of campaign and having a strong base in the home city, as they know the deals that where, when and how they have to ~~put~~ play beating all the odds. As PPP may show an unexpected turn. Now who will win, it will be known soon.

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