

ELECTORAL HISTORY OF DISTRICT SARGODHA (1946-2013): AN OVERVIEW

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Received: July 30, 2024

Revised: August 30, 2024

Accepted: September 14, 2024

Published: September 25, 2024

ABSTRACT

This article analyzes of the election dynamics and political transformations in the Sargodha district. This study examines the growth of political ideology, party dominance, and leadership patterns that had influenced Sargodha's political environment during 1946-2013. It examines the initial post-independence years, characterized by the preeminence of the Muslim League and the reinforcement of local political power structures. The article examines the emergence of powerful local families and landlords during this period, whose patronage networks significantly influenced electoral results. This study examines how the political party affiliations and voter preferences were set in Sargodha during 1946-2013 and what kind of influence feudal and biradari (clan) systems exerted on electoral politics as well as local power structures? Whether the national political changes and affected electoral trends in the district? The study utilizes a historical-analytical approach, incorporating both primary and secondary sources. Election outcomes from the National and Provincial Assemblies, political biographies, and historical sources are examined to discern party's patterns, voter conduct, and the impact of local elites. The study indicated considerable variations in party dominance over time during the early post-independence era. The Muslim League maintained a dominant position; however, this influence progressively yielded to local power elites who affiliated with several political parties over time. The 1970s signified a transition towards populism with the emergence of PPP and from the 1980s onwards, PML-N ascended as a preeminent entity, using regional feudal connections and religious sentiments. The study elucidates the intricate relationship between local power structures in election history of Sargodha.

Keywords: Electoral Politics, Sargodha, Biradarism, Electable, Local Elites.

INTRODUCTION

This study highlights the electoral history of District Sargodha, from the turbulent years before Pakistan's independence to 2013. The dynamic political scene showcases a complex interplay of political development and societal transformation in Sargodha. It also discloses how Sargodha District had played a crucial role in political trends of Punjab Province as well as Pakistan's democratic progress. The active participation of Sargodha in British rule and post-independence era is characterized. The study attempted to view the dominance of major factions of Sargodha, which refers to the importance of family and clan connections on political power. It explores the

important events of election history of District Sargodha occurred during 1946-2013.

District Sargodha and Elections 1946

A fervent campaign advocating for the establishment of Pakistan was commenced in Sargodha just before the elections 1946. Sir Khizar Hayat Tiwana, Sardar Shoukat Hayat, Mir Maqbool Mahmud, Raja Ghazanfar Ali, Sufi Abdul Hameed, Mian Ahmad Yar Daultana and Firoz Khan Noon were the major names in the politics of Sargodha as well as Punjab. The role of Sargodha in freedom struggle after 1940's Muslim League's Annual Session became more prominent when in inaugural public assembly was place in

Jamia Mosque, Block No. 1 Sargodha. In this meeting, Abdullah Shah Qureshi and Malik Muhammad Iqbal delivered speeches after Juma prayers. Guest speakers were also there, which included Maulana Bashir Ahmad Akhgar, Sayyid Mustafa Shah Gilani, and Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, and these members also addressed for upcoming scenario (Rasul, 2006).

In 1946, Sargodha had significant political activity when decision was made to organize Muslim League on a significant scale. In this context, Raja Gazanfar Ali Khan, Nawab Iftikhar Husain Mamdot, the President of the Provincial League, and Mian Mumtaz Daultana, the General Secretary of the Provincial League, came to Sargodha. S.P. Sargodha, Ram Singh made extensive efforts to hinder rural populace participation in the meeting by blocking roads while in villages, he instructed the ‘Lambardars’ to prohibit public leaving their residences (Iqbal, 1984). Despite these repressive efforts, almost 50000 individuals assembled during the daytime, and the figure escalated to 100,000 during the night session, in front of currently located site of Jinnah Hall.

Upon Nawab Iftikhar Husain Mamdot’s arrival, accompanied by local leaders such as Pir Qamarud-Din Sialvi of Sial Sharif, Nawab Muhammad Hayat Qureshi, and Sardar Amir Khan Mekan adorned him with a precious necklace made of pure gold (Rasul, 2006). This gesture caused excitement among the attendees, while Raja Ghazanfar’s speech was replete with humor that left a long-lasting impression on public for years. The visit of the leaders had a profound impact, which became beneficial for Muslim League as people had found a way to get rid from Unionist landlords’ influence. In this context, Mian Muhammad Shafi reported that, “the Muslim League had initiated a conflict in the native district of Malik Khizar Hayat” (Iqbal, 1984).

General Elections, 1946

The League confronted the Unionists in the Punjab, who were a formidable faction consisting of influential landlords and had backing of the British Government (Awan, 2020). However, the League’s stance in 1945 was completely distinct from 1937. Sargodha was native district of Prime Minister of the Punjab, Malik Khizar Hayat, so he was determined to win all seats from this District at whatever cost due to his personal vanity. He was

running for election in a seat of entire Tehsil Khushab (now District Khushab) and a portion of Tehsil Shahpur, so prior to election campaign he secured the backing of several significant individuals including Pir Nau Bahar Shah of Pail, Qazi Mazhar Ali Qayyum from Naushehra, Mazhar Ali of Kufri, Malik Allah Yar in Uchhali, Malik Shah Muhammad of Khabakki, Sardar Ahmad Sher Baloch from Jamali, Raja Muhammad Nawaz of Katha Saghral, Mahr Lal Khan in Jhawri, and Mahr Muhammad Yar Lak from Bar Sakesar (Iqbal, 1984).

Khizar Hayat used another measure for desired outcomes of the elections by appointing bureaucrats, who would obediently follow his instructions without any moral hesitation. The officers were capable of employing any methods, whether ethical or unethical. Significant among them, aside ‘Thanedars’, included Mian Naseer Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner, Chaudhry Ram Singh, Superintendent of Police, Shaikh Manzoor Ali, Revenue Officer, Chaudhry Bashir Ahmad Tara, Colony Assistant and Chaudhry Nisar Ahmad, Tehsildar (Rasul, 2006).

Nawab Mumtaz Khan Tiwana, an uncle of Khizar Hayat, was personally requested by Quaid-e-Azam to oppose Khizar Hayat, as he was staunch supporter of League. Despite his old age and declining health, he dutifully followed Jinnah’s instruction, so the elections featured following contestants:

Constituency	Contestants	Party Affiliation
Shahpur Tehsil	Nawab Muhammad Hayat Qureshi	Muslim League
	Mian Sultan Ali Nangiana	Unionist Party
Sargodha Tehsil	Pir Qalandar Husain of Jahanian Shah	Muslim League
	Nawab Allah Bakhsh Tiwana of Khawjabad	Unionist Party
Bhalwal Tehsil	Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha	Muslim League
	Mian Muhammad Bakhsh Ranja	Unionist Party

Source: Punjab Assembly

Among these candidates of League, only Fazal Haq Piracha was elected from the Bhalwal constituency while the others were succumbed to various forms of corruption, intimidation, and compulsion and implicated in fabricated criminal prosecutions. The daily newspaper 'Nawa-i-Waqat' served as the only mouthpiece of the Muslim League so Nawab Allah Bakhsh Tiwana of Khawjabad from Unionist Party purchased and incinerated all the copies of newspapers arrived in Sargodha (Iqbal, 1984). The Superintendents of different Police Stations employed intimidation tactics and persuaded the voters to cast their votes in favor of the Unionist candidates. Unquestionably, Nawab Allah Bakhsh was proclaimed victorious and the supporting officers were granted lands from Nawab's personal jagir (Rasul, 2006). An encouraging aspect was that Khizar Hayat, due to League's growing popularity, was fully engrossed in the election campaign of his own district, so he did not become able to exert influence over other constituencies.

First Decade of Parliament of Pakistan and Elections 1951

Pakistan established a fully functional parliamentary government in 1947 but due to the limitations imposed by the Acts of 1919 and 1935, the Pakistani leaders had minimal legislative experience as these acts bestowed less authority to the legislature chosen by the people (Rizwan, Mehmood, Sabir, Waqar, & Arshid, 2014). Similarly, political parties were not established and well-structured while the Muslim League, which spearheaded the Pakistan Movement, had a slow decline following the year 1947.

The Parliamentary system of Pakistan was not well-versed so the Central Legislature was chosen indirectly by the members of the Provincial Legislatures (Hussain, 2011). The first elections at the provincial level in Punjab took place in 1951 which resulted in a decisive victory for the Muslim League (Kamran, 2009). The winners from Sargodha District were Mian Muhammad Bakhsh, Salih Muhammad, Qazi Murid Ahmad, Malik Habibullah Tiwana, Muhammad Saeed Qureshi, Mahr Ahmad Yar Lak, Chaudhary Faiz Ahmad, Major Amir Abdullah, Hakim Khurshid Ahmad, Malik Feroz Khan Noon, and Shaikh Fazal Elahi Piracha (Punjab). Shaikh Fazal Elahi Piracha served as Provincial Minister for Food and

Rehabilitation during the government (Chattha, 2015).

In April 1953, Khawja Nazimuddin's ministry, which had the support of the house, was suddenly dismissed by Governor General Ghulam Muhammad (Haider & Khan, 2024). The Assembly was disbanded in October 1954 and a state of Emergency was declared (Nuruzzaman, 2010) so the elections were announced that were held in 1955. The candidates from the Sargodha District participated in elections and the winners included Chaudhary Faiz Ahmad, Malik Fatih Muhammad Tiwana, Shaikh Fazal Ilahi Piracha, Mahr Khuda Dad Lak, Muhammad Saeed Qureshi, Hakim Khurshid Ahmad, Qazi Murid Ahmad, and Salih Muhammad (Rasul, 2006).

After implementation of One Unit Scheme, the country witnessed frequent, abrupt and sudden changes in the composition of cabinets. Sargodha had representation in two national-level governments as during I.I. Chundrigar's Cabinet, in October 1957, Malik Feroz Khan Noon was appointed as Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (Noon, 1966). However, Chundrigar remained unable to secure majority, so President Iskandar Mirza called upon Malik Feroz Khan Noon to establish a cabinet in December 1957 (Sayeed, 1959). Noon Government directly contradicted the Planning Commission's recommendation to eliminate landlordism as Noon was a landlord of Punjab, so he faced strong criticism. His government was not remained too long and Martial Law was declared on October 7, 1958 (Indurthy, 1991).

Ayub Regime: Elections 1962 and 1965

The Noon cabinet was on the verge of collapse in the autumn 1958 because Awami Leaguers suddenly and unexpectedly withdrew support from the coalition (Choudhury, 1972). President Iskandar Mirza declared Martial Law, and abrogated constitution accompanied with the dissolution of the National and Provincial Assemblies (Hussain & Salyana, 2022). General Ayub Khan, C-in-C, was designated as the CMLA and soon President Mirza was compelled to resign on October 27, and General Ayub Khan held the office of President (Pant, 2017). After that Ayub Khan implemented the Basic Democracies program through an Ordinance, which ultimately

caused a Presidential nature Constitution in 1962 (Nisa & Ahsan, 2022).

The elections of National Assembly under 1962 constitution took place in April 1962, in which total of 610 people ran for elections on 156 seats (Hussain, 2011). The BD system was an indirect system of Electoral College consisting of 80000 Basic Democrats that were posed to elect members of Assembly. In Sargodha, the elected members of the National Assembly were Malik Noor Hayat Noon, Mahr Khuda Dad Khan Lak, and Mian Muhammad Zakir Qureshi (Pakistan). The elected individuals on Provincial Assembly seats of West Pakistan from Sargodha were Mian Khan Muhammad Kalyar, Muhammad Qasim Mela and Malik Sarfaraz Khan (Punjab).

The second National Assembly elections under 1962 Constitution took place in March 1965, which elected National and Provincial Assemblies' members from District Sargodha. It included Malik Anwar Khan, Malik Noor Hayat Noon, Muhammad Hayat Nangiana, (Pakistan, List of members of the 4th National Assembly of Pakistan) Mian Khan Muhammad Kalyar, Muhammad Qasim Mela, and Mian Muhammad Hayat Kalyar (Punjab, West Pakistan Sixth Legislator). It seemed that younger individuals were brought in the Assemblies from Sargodha (Rasul, 2006).

Under BD System, Ayub Khan secured his election as the President of Pakistan in an uncontested victory in the election. However, the Combined Opposition Parties (COP) caused embarrassment to Ayub's dictatorship by selecting Fatima Jinnah as their candidate for the Presidency (Aneeq, 2024). The initial obstacle, Ayub Khan encountered, was the opposition of political factions within the country. Madar-i-Millat visited Sargodha on December 4, 1964 and delivered a speech at 'Company Bagh' in an election campaign that was organized by Mufti Muhammad Tufail Goindi, a 32-year-old attorney (Rasul, 2006). The results of elections emerged victorious for Ayub Khan with 63.6% of the votes. However, despite his triumph, he was deeply affected while his opponent, although beaten, maintained her dignity and reputation (Fani, 2003).

In 1968, President Ayub commemorated a decade of advancement and growth, when a widespread protest against his autocratic authority was unexpectedly emerged. The campaign gained

significant momentum, which ultimately led the resignation of Ayub Khan (Shah, Sohail, & Abdullah, 2021). Ayub Khan nominated General Yahya Khan as his successor on March 25, 1969 so Yahya reinstated Martial Law (Rizvi, 2000). In the meanwhile, the Pakistan Peoples Party, led by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, experienced a surge in popularity under his famous slogan "Roti, Kapra and Makan (Sharif & Hussain, 2024). In Sargodha District, where landlordism was at peak, the peasants were drawn to the socialist ideals of PPP.

Elections 1970 and 1977 and Rule of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto

Yahya Khan, second CMLA, developed Legal Framework Order, a legislative basis for general elections in 1970. The elections for the National Assembly and five Provincial Assemblies were conducted on December 7, 1970, throughout the country. The residents of this District Sargodha showed great enthusiasm and involvement and the Peoples Party achieved a resounding triumph in these elections. The winners for the National Assembly from this District included Malik Anwar Ali Noon, Chaudhary Jahangir Ali, Chaudhary Hafeez Ullah Cheema and Mian Muhammad Zakir Qureshi (Pakistan, 5th national assembly from 1972-10th January 1977). The elected members for the Punjab Assembly were Sardar Saghir Ahmad, Ch. Ghulam Ahmad, Makhdoom Muhammad Bakhsh, Ch. Mumtaz Ahmad Kahlon, Sheikh Ihsanul Haq Piracha, and Sayyid Nawazish Ali Shah (Punjab, Provincial Assembly Seventh Legislator).

Prior to the assumption of power by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the unfortunate event of the split of East Pakistan occurred on December 16, 1971. However, Zulfiqar Bhutto assumed power as the head of the majority party in the remaining Assembly. This period experienced improved representation for Sargodha in both national and provincial political arena. Chaudhary Jahangir Ali and Chaudhary Hafeez Ullah Cheema were appointed as Ministers in the Federal Cabinet so Jahangir Ali made a significant contribution to the educational institutions in Sargodha. Similarly, Chaudhary Mumtaz Kahlon held a prominent position in the Provincial Cabinet and ensured the protection of the District's interests (Rasul, 2006). The second General Elections during the Bhutto Regime took place in 1977 and once again PPP

emerged victorious. The MNAs from the Sargodha District included Malik Anwar Ali Noon, Chaudhary Hafeez Ullah Cheema, Mahr Khuda Dad Lak, Mian Muhammad Zakir Qureshi, and Malik Noor Hayat Noon (Pakistan, 6th National Assembly). In this wave, Shaikh Ihsan-ul-Haq Piracha got opportunity to become a member of Senate of Pakistan from District Sargodha (Pakistan S. o.). The Provincial Assembly had a wider representation under 1973's Constitution so the elected MPAs in 1977 included Malik Anwar Khan Tiwana, Malik Zafar Ali, Sardar Sikandar Hayat Mekan, Chaudhary Mumtaz Kahlon, Sardar Saghir Ahmad, Mian Nazir Ahmad Ranjha, and Makhdum Haji Muhammad Bakhsh (Punjab, Provincial Assembly Eighth Legislator).

Despite the PPP securing a majority in the 1977 elections, the opposition declined election outcomes and the rightist parties formed the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA), accused PPP of engaging in extensive corruption and election cheating (Gohar, Sarwat, Gul, Ullah, & Akbar, 2022). This movement demonstrated an unprecedented level of fervor and Bhutto exercised unrestricted authority, and attacked on his adversaries. Consequently, the country experienced a state of anarchy, so General Zia-ul-Haq implemented third Martial Law of the country on July 5, 1977 (Ahmad, Ghazali, & Naeem, 2022).

Zia's Majlis-e-Shoora and Party-Less Elections 1985

Bhutto chose General Zia-ul-Haq as Army Chief despite his low profile and minor rank, but unfortunately, Bhutto's aspirations were not fulfilled and Zia, later on, executed Bhutto for his alleged complicity in a homicide. Zia discussed the process of Islamization and tried to establish political system based on the principles of the Pious Caliphate. The message gained significance when USSR deployed soldiers to Afghanistan in 1979. The convergence of Zia's Islamization, the Soviet invasion, and Iranian revolution at same time, resulted in the collapse of the secular national state (Ziring, 2004).

Zia's Islamization efforts included Nizam-i-Salat, Hudood Ordinance, establishment of Federal Sharia Court, and formation of Majlis-i-Shura instead of democratically elected legislative body. This Shura was a deliberative entity appointed by the President which was liable to propose

legislation, propose modifications to current legislation, and deliberated on financial allocations. Majlis-i-Shura's members were chosen from Sargodha District too, to serve during 1981-1985. These members were Malik Amjad Ali Noon, Lt. Col (R) Ahmad Iqbal Tiwana, Shaikh Anwar-ul-Haq Piracha, Mahr Khudadad Khan Lak, Malik Manzoor Hayat Noon, Malik Anwar Khan Tiwana, Mian Muhammad Saeed Qureshi, Sayyid Nusrat Ali Shah, and Lala Nawab Khan (Rasul, 2006).

Due to lack of legitimacy, the opposition parties formed the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), so Zia opted referendum and sought the people's vote in favor or in opposition of Islamization (Ibrahim & Musarrat, 2019). The supportive votes endorsed Zia's implementation of Islamization and Zia prolonged his tenure for a further five years as President of Pakistan (Kanwal, 2015). However, in 1985, general elections on a non-partisan basis were held to choose public representatives.

The new legislative body superseded the Majlis-i-Shura but 1985 elections failed to generate the expected level of public enthusiasm, which resulted in a low voter turnout (Richter, 1986). The individuals elected as MNAs from the District Sargodha included Malik Noor Hayat Noon, Chaudhary Amanullah Khan Badrana, Malik Muhammad Aslam Kachhela, Chaudhary Anwar Ali Cheema, and Sayyid Nusrat Ali Shah (Pakistan N. A., 7th National Assembly from 1985 to 1988). Senate was also restored in 1985 so elected members from Sargodha were Mian Ameer Haidar Qureshi, Mahr Khudadad Lak, Sheikh Ihsan-ul-Haq Piracha, and Mian Muhammad Saeed Qureshi (Pakistan S. o., Members of Senate 1985-1988). In case of Punjab Assembly the electable were Malik Ahmad Iqbal Khan Tiwana, Sahibzada Ghulam Naseeruddin Siyalvi, Chaudhary Javaid Iqbal Cheema, Mahr Ghulam Dastagir Lak, Chaudhary Farrukh Javaid Ghumman, Riaz Ameer 'alias' Abdul Haq Bhatti, Mian Manazir Ali Ranjha, Chaudhary Shah Nawaz Ranjha, Muhammad Khan Jaspal and Sheikh Anwarul Haq Piracha (Punjab, Provincial Assembly Ninth Legislator).

Zia selected Muhammad Khan Junejo as his Prime Minister and ultimately Martial Law was terminated in December 1985. The Junejo government lasted for less than three years as he declined to act as a mere figurehead, leading to

Zia's decision to oust him from his position on May 29, 1988 (Saleem, Rani, & Waqas, 2021). He dissolved the Central and Provincial Assemblies too and ultimately announced national elections that would take place on November 16, 1988. However, on August 17, 1988, while Zia was travelling in C-130 aircraft from Bahawalpur to Islamabad, an explosion occurred, which resulted in the death of Zia (Crossette, 2005).

Elections 1988 and First Government of Benazir Bhutto

After Zia's demise, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the Chairman of the Senate, assumed the position of the President of Pakistan and declared a state of emergency (Wasseem, 1992). The elections were conducted as planned in November 1988 and a strong competition took place between PPP under Benazir Bhutto and Islamic Jamhoori Ittihad (IJI) under Mian Nawaz Sahrif. Due to his strong aversion towards the army led government as Aslam Baig was regaining power, Ishaq had no choice but to lend his support to the PPP (Ziring, 2004).

Out of 215 seats of National Assembly, the PPP secured 92 seats while IJI obtained 54. The individuals elected from Sargodha in the National Assembly were Sheikh Ihsanul Haq Piracha, Chaudhary Qadir Bakhsh Mela, Chaudhary Javaid Iqbal Cheema, and Chaudhary Anwar Ali Cheema (Pakistan N. A., 8th National Assembly from 1988 to 1990). Khawja Hameed-ud-Din Sialvi became Senator from Sargodha (Pakistan S. o., Members of Senate 1988-1991), while on seats of Punjab Assembly Sardar Sikandar Hayat Mekan, Sahibzada Ghulam Naseerud Din, Chaudhary Abdul Hameed, Mahr Ghulam Dastagir Lak, Mian Ashraf Kalyar, Chaudhary Aamir Sultan Cheema, Mian Saif Ahmad Ranjha, Muhammad Aslam Midhiana, Chaudhary Muhammad Khan Jaspal, and Dr. Ijaz Ahmad Bharrath were elected (Punjab, Provincial Assembly Tenth Legislator).

PPP got victory and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) and Awami National Party (ANP) aligned themselves with the PPP, so President extended an invitation to Benazir to establish a government (Khan, Khan, & Khan, 2019). Sheikh Ihsan-ul Haq Piracha of Sargodha was designated as the Minister for Finance while Chaudhary Qadir Bakhsh Mela was chosen as the Minister for Sports (Pakistan C. D.).

Benazir was young Prime Minister at age of thirty-six, making her the first Muslim woman to hold this position, but her excessive and uncontrollable attitude caused insecurities to coalition partners and consequently she lost the support of MQM and ANP (Musarrat & Ibrahim, 2013). She frequently displayed indications of discord with the military and was unwilling to make arrangements for Nawaz Sharif, the Chief Minister of Punjab. She also had issues with President so on August 6, 1990. President Ishaq Khan removed Benazir from office by exercising his authority granted by Article 58(b) of the Constitution just after seventeen months of government (Khan, Khan, & Khan, 2019).

IJI's Winning in Elections 1990

The President's move was challenged in Lahore High Court, which ultimately determined it lawful so next elections were held on October 24, 1990. The IJI got 155 seats, while the PPP 45 in the National Assembly. From Sargodha, Brig. (R) Ghulam Husain Cheema, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Col. (R) Qadir Bakhsh Mela (bye-election), Chaudhary Javaid Iqbal Cheema, Chaudhary Anwar Ali Cheema and Tariq C. Qaisar as a Minority Member, were elected (Pakistan N. A., 9th National Assembly from 1990 to 1993). In Provincial Assembly, Mian Mazhar Qureshi, Sahibzada Ghulam Naseerud Din, Chaudhary Abdul Hameed, Mahr Ghulam Dastagir Lak, Chaudhary Farrukh Javaid Ghumman, Chaudhary Aamir Sultan Cheema, Mian Manazir Ali Ranjha, Mian Shah Nawaz Ranjha, Mahr Ahmad Khan Haral and Sheikh Anwar-ul-Haq Piracha, got victory (Punjab, Provincial Assembly Eleventh Legislator).

Nawaz Sharif was elected to multiple seats and one of this was in Sargodha. Sargodha's public took great pleasure that new Prime Minister was chosen from their District. During this period, Nawaz Sharif initiated project of Motorway-2, so Sargodha was bestowed with a blessing, as it was now going to be more effectively linked with various regions of the country. In Provincial Cabinet, Aamir Sultan Cheema assumed the role of Minister for Livestock and Mian Manazir Ali Ranjha was appointed as the Deputy Speaker (Rasul, 2006).

General Asif Nawaz, who served as the Army Chief, passed away on January 8, 1993 and

President unilaterally designated Lt. General Abdul Waheed Kakar as his successor, without seeking the will of Prime Minister (Jalal, 2014). Nawaz Sharif has become aware of a developing conspiracy so he identified Ishaq as the primary catalyst for all the deception and scheming (Rasul, 2006). In the meanwhile, President Ishaq dissolved the National Assembly and ousted Nawaz Sharif on April 18, 1993 (Hashmi, 2002). Nawaz Sharif lodged an appeal in Supreme Court, which subsequently determined that the President had exceeded his authority and restored his administration (Jatoi, Mustafa, & Kataria, 2022). General Waheed Kakar intervened and urged Ishaq Khan and Nawaz Sharif to step down so both of them submitted their resignation on July 18, 1993 (Khalid & Sajid, 2021).

Second Winning of Benazir Bhutto in Elections 1993

On October 6-7, 1993, elections for the National and Provincial Assemblies were held that resulted in victory of PPP in the Central legislature. The electable from Sargodha included Chaudhary Ghulam Husain Cheema, Mian Liaquat Hayat Badrana, Mahr Ahmad Ziaur Rehman Lak, Chaudhary Anwar Ali Cheema and Tariq C. Qaisar as Minority Member (Pakistan N. A., 10th National Assembly from 1993 to 1996). The electable in Provincial Assembly included Mian Mazhar Qureshi, Mian Ilyas Qureshi, Chaudhary Abdul Hameed, Mahr Ghulam Dastagir Lak, Chaudhary Farrukh Javaid Ghuman, Chaudhary Siraj Din Gujjar, Mian Manazir Ali Ranjha, Chaudhary Muhammad Aslam, Mahr Ahmad Khan Haral and Dr. Ijaz Ahmad Bharath (Punjab, Provincial Assembly Twelfth Legislator).

Benazir sworn in as Prime Minister and succeeded in electing Sardar Farooq Leghari to be Pakistan's president. With the span of time, the President and Prime Minister's gap grew because Leghari bemoaned Asif Zardari's growing sway and urged Benazir to control her husband (Khalid & Sajid, 2021). Ultimately the issues such as manipulation in judiciary, allegations of illicit business and accusations made by Murtaza Bhutto's wife against Asif Zardari for his involvement in murder, and the widespread corruption in her government resulted in the oust of Bhutto's Government by President on November 5, 1996 (Shafqat, 1996). In this government, Sargodha was represented in the

Provincial Cabinet by Mahr Ghulam Dastagir Lak, who served as Minister of Transport.

Sargodha's Representation in Caretaker Government of Miraj Khalid

After ousting Benazir Bhutto government, new interim government was established, with Miraj Khalid, as caretaker Prime Minister. Within the Punjab's caretaker administration, Muhammad Khan Jaspal, hailing from the Sargodha District, was appointed as the Minister for Housing and Physical Planning, while Malik Elahi Dad Noon served as an adviser to the Chief Minister.

Elections 1997 and Upsurge of PML

The election took place on February 17, 1997, with Muslim League emerging as the primary victor, having two-third majority. The candidates emerged victorious in the Sargodha district on seats of National Assembly included Malik Adnan Hayat Noon, Chaudhary Ghias Ahmad Mela, Chaudhary Anwar Ali Cheema, Chaudhary Abdul Hameed and Tariq C. Qaisar as Minority Member (Pakistan N. A., 11th National Assembly from 1997 to 1999). Shaikh Ihsan-ul-Haq Piracha was elected as Senator (Pakistan S. o., Members of Senate 1997-2000) while Mian Ilyas Qureshi, Mian Munir Qureshi, Haji Allah Yar Ansari, Mahr Anwar Hayat Lak, Mian Ashraf Kalyar, Chaudhary Aamir Sultan Cheema, Mian Ahmad Sher Ranjha, Mian Shahnawaz Ranjha, Haji Ahmad Khan Haral, and Pir Mohsin Shah were elected in Punjab Assembly from Sargodha (Punjab, Provincial Assembly Thirteenth Legislator).

The Nawaz Government revoked Article 58(2-b), which granted the President the power to dismiss the government (Yasmeen, 1994). However, due to suspicions of collusion between the President Leghari and Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah against the Prime Minister, both were compelled to retire and Rafiq Tarar assumed the presidency on January 1, 1998 (Jalal, 2014). However, the Nawaz Government was ousted in October 1999 by COAS, General Pervez Musharraf. The reason behind their clashes was Kargil war as Nawaz Government attempted to shift the responsibility for the operation onto General Musharraf, considering the global condemnation. General Musharraf was going to be replaced by Prime Minister, while the army had not yet forgotten the abrupt removal of General Karamat, so Generals

choose to support Pervez Musharraf (Rasul, 2006). Musharraf was on visit to Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister attempted to appoint Lt. General Zia-uddin as COAS, but pro-Musharraf forces surrounded the Prime Minister's residence and arrested Nawaz Sharif and General Zia-uddin and Pervez Musharraf declared the emergency in the country (Chengappa, 1999).

Elections During Musharraf Rule

Musharraf did not officially declared Martial Law, halted 1973 Constitution and allowed President Rafiq Tarar to continue his office but after two years Tarar was removed from his role (Dawn, 2003). After that Musharraf became President and consolidated his power as both the head of state and head of government. In referendum, Musharraf requested a nationwide vote to grant him extra five-year tenure as both President and Chief Executive, in which he emerged victorious with 98% votes (Pant, Pakistan: Contemporary Political History, 2017).

Pervez Musharraf made the decision to call general elections for restoring the democratic process in October 2002 so Sargodha elected its representatives for the National Assembly. The electable won the elections included Shaikh Inam-ul-Haq Piracha, Chaudhary Ghias Ahmad Mela, Tasneem Ahmad Qureshi, Chaudhary Anwar Ali Cheema, Mian Mazhar Ahmad Qureshi, Mrs. Tanzeela Aamir Cheema and Shahzadi Umarzadi Tiwana on Women's Seat, and Mr. Haroon C. Qaisar on Minority Member (Pakistan N. A., 12th National Assembly from 2002 to 2007).

In Punjab Assembly, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Bharrat, Mahr Rabnawaz Lak, Fakhar Iqbal Sindhoo, Zahid Iqbal Sindhoo, Mian Manzoor Ali Ranjha, Chaudhary Aamir Sultan Cheema, Malik Shoaib Awan, Dr. Nadia Aziz, Chaudhary Faisal Farooq Cheema, Maj. (R) Asghar Hayat Kalyar, Mian M. Munir Qureshi, Mian Khalid Kalyar and Mrs. Zahida Sarfraz, were elected (Punjab, Provincial Assembly Fourteenth Legislator). After a year, in 2003, the Senate of Pakistan witnessed elections so Dr. Khalid Ranjha and Sajjad Husain Bokhari were elected Senators from Sargodha (Pakistan S. o., Members of Senate 20003-2006).

Dr. Khalid Ranjha was appointed as Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs in the Caretaker Government 2002. Similarly, Mian Mazhar Ahmad Qureshi and Shahzadi Umarzadi Tiwana were

appointed as Parliamentary Secretaries in Federal Government. Mian Manazir Ali Ranjha had assumed the position of Minister for Colonies and Chaudhary Aamir Cheema was appointed as Minister of Irrigation. Maj. (R) Asghar Hayat had been appointed as an Adviser to the Chief Minister, while Malik Shoaib Awan and Mrs. Zahida Sarfaraz served as Parliamentary Secretaries in Provincial Government (Rasul, 2006).

Elections 2008 and Victory of PPP

On 18 February 2008, Pakistan conducted General Elections for National Assembly and the four Provincial Assemblies (Rashid, 2007). President Musharraf implemented a state of emergency on 3 November 2007, which resulted in the indefinite postponement of elections but he announced that elections would go as scheduled not later than 15 February 2008 and proposed date on 8 January (News, 2007). However, killing of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto determined this date no longer practical, so elections were rescheduled to take place on 18 February (News S., 2008).

The elections witnessed the revival of PPP and PML-N, which ultimately resulted in the victory of PPP. PPP also stood victorious in Sindh, while the PML-N triumphed in Punjab, ANP emerged as the strongest party in NWFP and PML-Q secured the most seats in Balochistan. From Sargodha, Nadeem Afzal Chan, Ghias Mela, Tasneem Ahmad Qureshi, Anwer Ali Cheema and Sardar Shafqat Hayat Khan, were elected as MNAs (Pakistan N. A., 13th National Assembly from 2008 to 2013). On Punjab Assembly seats, Chaudhary Amir Sultan Cheema, Chaudhary Abdul Razzaq Dhillon, Chaudhary Muhammad Awais Aslam Madhana, Ejaz Ahmad Kahlon, Ghulam Nizam-ud-Din Sialvi, Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Mehr Rab Nawaz Lak, Shazadi Umerzadi Tiwana, and Tahir Ahmed Sindhu were elected (Punjab, Provincial Assembly Fifteenth Legislator).

Musharraf acknowledged the loss of his party, so at earliest, PPP and PML-N formed a coalition government due to a widespread lack of faith in Musharraf but within seven days, PML-N decided to withdraw from the coalition (Nisa W. U., 2024). Soon, the PPP was joined by Muttahida Qaumi Movement, Awami National Party, and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) as a coalition partners. From MNAs of Sargodha, Tasneem Ahmad Qureshi was appointed as Minister of Interior and then Minister

of Water and Power, while Anwar Ali Cheema became Minister for Health in Yousaf Raza Gillani's Ministry (Cabinet Division). Later on, Anwar Ali Cheema got Ministry of Production, while Tasneem Ahmad Qureshi resumed the office of Minister of Water and Power in Raja Pervez Ashraf's Cabinet (Division).

PML-N's 2013 Government

For the first time in electoral history of Pakistan, an elected democratic government had completed its five years term in accordance with constitution and announced for new elections in 2013. The elections were held on May 11, 2013 and this time there were three prominent political parties including PML-N, PPP and PTI. The outcome was in favor of PML-N which secured most seats (Times, 2013). The PPP successfully maintained its dominance in Sindh, PTI secured highest seats in KP, while PML-N secured the most number of seats in Punjab and Balochistan.

In Sargodha, political parties witnessed clean sweep in the hand of PML-N as the party got all five National Assembly's seats. The winners from Sargodha included Muhammad Amin Ul Hasnat Shah, Mohsin Shahnawaz Ranjha, Chaudhry Hamid Hameed, Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, and Sardar Shafqat Hayat Khan (Pakistan N. A., 14th National Assembly from 2013 to 2018). From Sargodha, Chaudhary Aamir Sultan Cheema, Chaudhary Abdul Razzaq Dhillon, Chaudhary Faisal Farooq Cheema, Ghulam Dastagir Lak, Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bherath, Mian Manazir Hussain Ranjha, Dr. Nadia Aziz, Rana Munawar Hussain alias Rana Munawar Ghouse Khan, Sahibzada Ghulam Nizam-ud-Din Sialvi, Sardar Bahadur Khan Maikan and Yasir Sarfraz Sindhu, became MPAs for Punjab Assembly (Punjab, Provincial Assembly Sixteenth Legislator).

In Nawaz Sharif and Shahid Khaqan's Cabinet, Muhammad Amin Ul Hasnat Shah got Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony (Cabinet Division, Cabinet under Mohammad Nawaz Sharif), while Mohsin Shahnawaz Ranjha got Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in Shahid Khaqan's Cabinet (Division, Cabinet under Premiership of Shahid Khaqan Abbasi). The Government had completed its five years term and announced elections in 2018.

Conclusion

The electoral history of District Sargodha determined that this area had not only reflected but also had an impact on the wider political situation since the inception of Pakistan. The elections in Sargodha had been marked by an intricate interplay of political ideologies, strategic alliances, and socio-cultural variables since British Raj. A notable characteristic was witnessed that electable were regularly elected by individuals which determined their significant influence on natives. It also expressed the desires of voters, and negotiated the complex network of national and provincial politics.

The frequently elected members had deeply roots in local factionalism and they promoted regional progress, infrastructure endeavors, and social welfare programs. In addition, their extended tenures allowed them to establish networks of favoritism and power, which strengthened their support among voters and ensuring several re-elections. It can be viewed through the frequent acceptance of Chaudhary Anwar Ali Cheema for seven times in elections.

In addition to their immediate constituencies, these leaders had made significant contributions as Federal and Provincial Ministers. Their expertise and accumulated knowledge had played a crucial role in economic stability, political transformation, and societal shifts. The electoral history of District Sargodha provided vital insights into the development democratic culture in the peoples of this region.

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