



Family members of slain Pakistani former premier Benazir Bhutto attend a Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Executive Committee meeting at Bhutto's residence in Naudero yesterday. Benazir's party held a crucial meeting to pick the slain Pakistani opposition leader's successor and decide a policy for next month's elections, party officials said.

Pakistanis blame Musharraf

AP, Islamabad

The assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto has pitched Pakistan into a political freefall and raised fears that increasingly bitter divisions in the society are turning the country into another Iraq.

Shocked citizens blame the deepening turmoil on President Pervez Musharraf and his US-backed crackdown on Islamic extremists. Overwhelmingly poor and more concerned with survival than anti-Western terrorism, most crave stability above all, and many believe things will only get better if Musharraf resigns.

"The government of Musharraf has created an Afghanistan and Iraq-like situation in our country,"

said Zaheer Ahmad, 47, who works at a private clinic in Multan. "I don't know who killed Benazir Bhutto. But I do know that it is the result of Musharraf's wrong and bad policies."

While many Pakistanis want him gone, there is no consensus on who could replace Musharraf or whether anyone can unify the country's bickering political factions.

The suicide attack that killed Benazir on Thursday has unleashed a maelstrom of anger among her supporters and three days of unrest have left more than 40 dead and tens of millions of dollars in damage. In some cities, security forces are now authorised to shoot rioters on sight.

Bhutan heads to first polls as kingdom moves from royal rule

AFP, New Delhi

The Himalayan outpost of Bhutan stages its first parliamentary polls this week as the kingdom steers away from royal rule, but officials worry many voters will stay away.

The December 31 elections represent a dramatic shift of power in Bhutan orchestrated by former king Jigme Singye Wangchuck to end absolute royal authority for a more ceremonial role.

The monarch abdicated in December 2006 in favour of Oxford-educated son King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck as part of plans to introduce a constitution and hold direct elections -- a direct break with 100-year-old royal rule.

But many Bhutanese view the looming changes with trepidation, as seen in practice polls in April and May which saw about 40 percent turnout.

Kuensel, the nation's official newspaper, reported that many potential voters in the capital Thimphu have been reluctant to head back to villages as demanded and had not received or applied for postal ballots.

Some federal government workers from outside Thimphu "and many other organisations in the capital did not receive postal ballots," Kuensel reported.

According to an online poll of 1,310 people carried out by the weekly, only 40 percent expect to vote for the upper house National Council of parliament.

There are nearly 313,000 registered voters in the isolated kingdom of 600,000 sandwiched between India and China.

To quell voter fears of corruption in particular by the new political class, Election Commission guidelines for prospective candidates include a high-school diploma, income and criminal background checks and bans on offering or accepting money.

The upper house has 20 seats up for direct election with another five

to be selected by the new king. The body is intended as a check to the National Assembly or lower house, which will be directly elected for the first time likely in February or March 2008.

Only 15 of the seats will hold polls on December 31, five will be held on January 29 and the remaining seat filled sometime after lower house polls are held, the election commission said in an email.

Electronic voting will be used for all seats and results are expected shortly after polls close at 4:00 pm.

Candidates for the upper house cannot have political party affiliation.

The 47-seat lower house will see at least two main parties -- the Virtuous Bhutan Party, an alliance headed by former home minister Jigme Yehse Thinley, and the People's Democratic Party, led by former prime minister Sangay Ngedup.

Bhutan, about the size of Switzerland, is widely known for a motto coined by the former king as aiming for "gross national happiness" over gross domestic product.

However the one-time Shangri-la also faces serious problems including the wrath of Indian militant groups based on its 275km southern border with Assam state.

Last week, Bhutan sealed the border with Assam over fears that the militants might take revenge for a 2003 military crackdown with the help of India that evicted three separatist groups -- two from Assam and one from West Bengal.

"We are worried that militants from Assam might try and create problems during the elections," said Sangye Thinley, district magistrate of Sarpang district of Bhutan.

Bhutan also evicted ethnic Nepalese Hindus as part of a campaign by the former king in the 1990s to forge "national identity," which consists of traditional dress and wider use of the Bhutanese language.

Her killing has also deepened the sense that the rule of law, let alone prospects for democracy after eight years of authoritarian rule under Musharraf, are now in danger.

Benazir was the leader of the biggest secular political party and lionised by the rural poor.

Although her strongest support came from her home province of Sindh, she was perhaps unique in Pakistan for having national appeal across ethnic and religious divides, including among the moderate Muslim majority and minority Christians and Hindus.

There is an alarming gap between Pakistan's rich elite which she belonged to and the majority of the 160 million people with a per capita annual income of just \$720.

Critics derided her a political opportunist, tainted by corruption allegations during her two terms in office. Nevertheless, her passing has left a vacuum in Pakistani politics.

The most natural successor to Benazir is another former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, who leads the other main opposition party.

Sharif is more conservative than Benazir and rose to political prominence under a former military regime. It appears very unlikely he could coexist with Musharraf, who toppled him in a 1999 coup.

Over a dozen killed in Pak tribal unrest 2 bombers die in failed attack

AFP, AP, Peshawar/Islamabad

More than a dozen people have died in fresh clashes between heavily armed rival tribes in a northwestern Pakistani region plagued by sectarian violence, security officials said yesterday.

Sunni and Shia tribes perched on hills in villages outside the town of Parachinar are using heavy weapons including rockets, mortars, missiles and cannons to destroy each other.

The death toll in the violence since last week reached 63 after 13 more died in clashes overnight, a security official said, requesting anonymity.

Local administration chief Zaheer ul-Islam confirmed the unrest, but declined to say how many people had been killed.

"Rival tribes are using heavy

weapons, there are casualties, but at the moment I cannot give the exact figure," Zaheer told AFP.

The latest clashes started on December 22, four days after the Shia Turi and Sunni Mengal tribes signed a ceasefire agreement following weeks of fighting which left more than 100 people dead.

The unrest, which is not related to violence since the death of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, forced the government to deploy troops and impose a curfew.

"We are trying to involve local tribal chiefs to arrange a new truce," Zaheer added.

Earlier two suspected suicide bombers died Sunday when they prematurely detonated their bomb near the residence of a senior leader of the ruling party in eastern Pakistan, police said.

Pakistan inches back to 'normal'

AFP, Karachi

Tens of millions of Pakistanis unable to buy food or petrol during three days of mourning for Benazir Bhutto saw life begin inching back to normal yesterday, as a wave of violence appeared to ease.

Shops started to re-open across the country as the end of an official period of mourning for the slain former premier approached Sunday night, bringing some relief to a nation wracked by turmoil after her assassination on Thursday.

"Karachi is rapidly coming back to normal," said Akhtar Zamin, home minister for Sindh province, where the city -- Pakistan's largest and the nation's economic hub -- is

located.

Akhtar Zamin, home minister for Sindh, told AFP there had been "a definite improvement in the security situation" across the province.

An outpouring of rage after Bhutto's murder left at least 38 people dead, dozens more wounded, and the country reeling from what the interior ministry said was tens of millions of dollars in damage.

Demonstrators at times fought running battles with riot police and torched hundreds of banks, shops, railway stations, offices, trains and vehicles.

But Zamin said his province, where most of the deaths were recorded amid tensions between ethnic Sindhis and Punjabis, was

now slowly getting back to normal.

"Petrol stations re-opened and many more will re-open," he said. "We have restored supplies of daily essentials. Makeshift Sunday bazaars were held at 12 places in the city."

In the Karachi slum of Lyari, a Bhutto party stronghold, an AFP reporter saw several shops open and a vendor selling vegetables from his cart. Some boys played a pick-up game of cricket on the street.

But signs of violence remain everywhere on the ground. The streets are dotted with burnt-out vehicles, shops windows are smashed and the roads in many places are littered with bricks and stones hurled by rioters.

'Pakistan can survive latest chaos'

AFP, Islamabad

Born from chaos and bloodshed, and still steeped in turmoil 60 years on, Pakistan has repeatedly defied predictions that the centre of the world's only nuclear-armed Islamic nation cannot hold.

While Benazir Bhutto's assassination has renewed fears Pakistan will become another failed state with a destiny determined by bombs instead of ballots, analysts say it has been down this road before -- and survived.

Pakistan is accustomed to seeing its political leaders meet a violent end, to be followed by claims civil war is at hand, and a kind of internal war has been part of the national fabric since its birth in 1947, they say.

Carved out of the rump of the British empire to give Muslims their own homeland with the partition of India, even the nation's founding was soaked in blood, with one million killed during the largest migration in human history.

"Pakistan was constructed as a contradiction, a homeland for Muslims that called itself a secular state. That is something Pakistanis have not come to terms with," said Marie Lall, an expert at British think-tank Chatham House.

"But because there is a problem with the basis for the creation of Pakistan, that does not mean it is destined to be a failed state," she told AFP.

Often seen now as little more than a breeding ground for Islamic militancy, Pakistan is a complex mass of tribes and peoples where even the all-powerful military has come to believe that setbacks today do not mean failure tomorrow.

The army, rulers of the country for more than half its existence, had to step in almost at the beginning, following a 1948 conflict with India over the Himalayan region of Kashmir that set off decades of strife.

Since then, Pakistan has lived through war and assassination, turmoil and the "war on terror" -- even the loss of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, in 1971, which is widely seen as the most traumatic moment in its history.

"The geo-strategic circumstances, the Cold War, the Afghan jihad, nuclearisation and 9/11 kept feeding the army," said retired Pakistani general and analyst Talat Masood.

Military dictator Zia-ul-Haq's support for the war against the 1979 Soviet occupation of neighbouring Afghanistan emerged as the defining policy of this nation of 160 million people for the following three decades.

The devout Islamic fighters trained by Pakistani intelligence agencies to battle the Red Army later became the holy warriors fighting in Indian Kashmir, the Taliban in Afghanistan, and the al-Qaeda militants behind a global jihad.



Supporters of slain Pakistani former premier Benazir Bhutto mourn over her grave at the Bhutto family mausoleum in Garhi Khuda Baksh yesterday. Thousands of people chanted anti-government slogans at the family home of slain Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto ahead of the reading of her will.

Taliban kill 8 in attack

AP, Kabul

Taliban militants fired rocket-propelled grenades from their vehicles at a convoy of private security guards on Afghanistan's main highway, killing six guards and two police officers, a police chief said yesterday.

The attack in a dangerous section of Wardak province occurred Saturday afternoon as the security contractors were guarding equip-

ment being driven from Ghazni city to the capital Kabul, said Wardak police chief Gen. Zafaruddin, who goes by one name.

Taliban militants opened fire on the convoy near Maydon Shahr, about 30km southwest of Kabul, and six guards and two policemen were killed, he said.

This year has been Afghanistan's most violent since the 2001 US-led invasion drove the Taliban from power. More than

6,300 people, mostly militants, have been killed in insurgency-related violence, according to an Associated Press count.

Meanwhile, the UN's top representative here, Tom Koenigs, said he was "particularly concerned" that an Afghan consultant who worked for the UN remains jailed after he accompanied officials from the UN and European Union, allegedly to a meeting with Taliban commanders in Helmand province.



The child of an activist of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) is paraded dressed as the Hindu Monkey God Hanuman during a rally in New Delhi yesterday. Thousands of supporters of the VHP and other Hindu religious organisations assembled in support of their demand to scrap the Ram Sethu project in the state of Tamil Nadu.

PK Dhumal takes oath as Himachal Chief Minister

PTI, Shimla

Prem Kumar Dhumal, who led BJP to a spectacular victory in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls, was today sworn in as Chief Minister of the state for the second time.

Governor VS Kojikie administered the oath of office and secrecy to 63-year-old veteran BJP leader at a public ceremony at the historic Ridge Maidan in Shimla.

Dhumal, an English professor-turned-politician, was unanimously elected leader of the Himachal BJP Legislature Party in Shimla on Saturday.

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- Tender Name** : TENDER FOR ENLISTMENT OF POTENTIAL AND QUALIFIED TENDERS FOR PROCURING GOODS AND RELATED SERVICES (Value Upto Taka 10 Lakh) FOR THE YEAR 2008.
- Brief description of goods /services**: The items for which enlistment procedure is taken shall be internationally renowned brand item and must be at least BST/ISO certified. The items are categorized as follows:
 - Group-1** workstation, Monitor, Laptop, Computer related accessories, Network related accessories, Utility Software.
 - Group-2** Printer, Scanner and related accessories.
 - Group-3** Online UPS, UPS with built in AVR, AVS and related accessories.

Tenderers willing to enlist for more than one group have to purchase tender document for each group.

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JBL. PRD HQ-39/07

Deputy General Manager
Information Technology Division

বাংলাদেশ মেশিন টুলস ফ্যাক্টরী লিঃ
(বাংলাদেশ সেনাবাহিনী কর্তৃক পরিচালিত একটি বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠান)
ফোন : ৮৮০-২-৯২০৫০৯১-৯৫, ফ্যাক্স : ৮৮০-২-৯২০৫০৯৭

সিএন্ডএফ এজেন্ট নিয়োগের জন্য পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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| দরপত্র নং | দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় | দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য (যেকোনোভাবে) |
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| MT/PUR/C&F(A)/APT/2008-2009 | ২২ জানুয়ারী ২০০৮ তারিখ ১২:১৫ ঘটিকা | ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা মাত্র। |

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ডিজিএম (প্রকিউরমেন্ট)
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