

ROW OVER REINSTATEMENT OF JUDGES

Sharif's party to quit Pak cabinet today

AFP, AP, Islamabad

Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif said ministers from his party will resign from their posts today over differences regarding the reinstatement of judges sacked by President Pervez Musharraf.

"Our ministers will submit their resignations to the prime minister tomorrow," Sharif told a news conference after a crucial meeting of his Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) here Monday.

However, he said his party would not take any decision that would strengthen what he called a "dictatorship" under Musharraf.

"We will not be part of any conspiracy aimed at strengthening dictatorships," he said.

"We want the unconditional, dignified and honourable return of the judges," he said, adding that his party would not destabilise the government. "We will not sit on opposition benches for the time being."

PML-N had nine ministers in the 24-member federal cabinet, formed six weeks ago.

The decision was taken here at a meeting of the parliamentary party and the central working committee of the PML-N chaired by Sharif.

The former premier called the meeting after negotiations in London with Asif Ali Zardari, co-chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, failed to bridge their differences over the restoration of some 60 judges.

Sharif expressed disappointment

after the weekend talks with Zardari failed to resolve the deadlock.

He said he made sincere efforts but the deadlock could not be broken.

The two parties formed an alliance after defeating allies of Musharraf in February 18 elections.

Sharif had given a May 12 deadline for reinstatement of the judges fired by Musharraf under emergency rule in November.

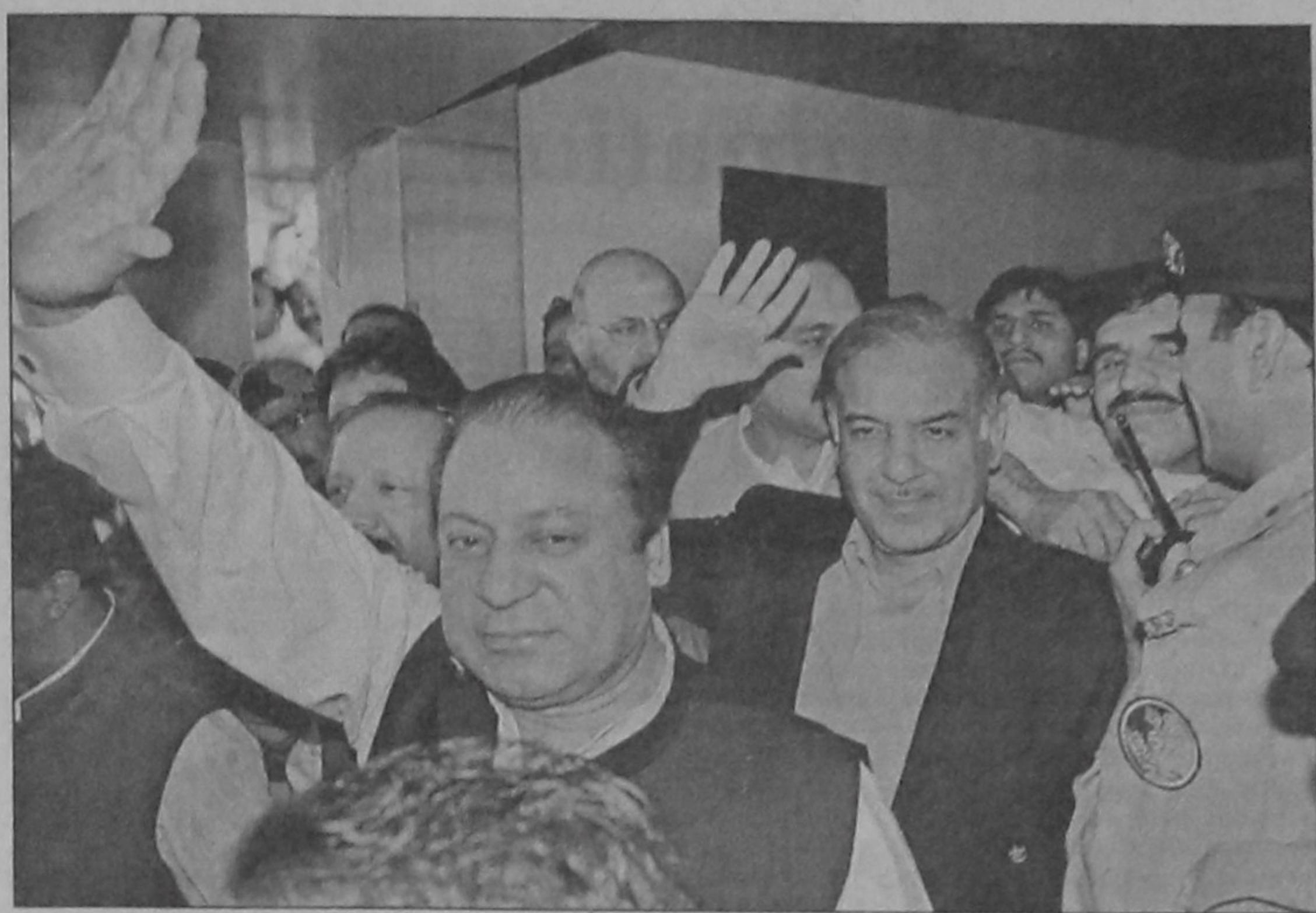
It remained unclear if the rift could break up the government or force fresh elections. That would be a serious setback to Pakistan's transition to democracy after eight years of military rule under Musharraf. The new government came to power just six weeks ago.

A coalition break-up could throw

political lifeline to the embattled president, who has taken a back seat in the day-to-day running of Pakistan since the new government took office.

Both parties still appear reluctant to sever ties. Although Sharif's party has threatened to quit the Cabinet a move that would distance it from the decisions of the government, it has hinted it would still support the government rather than join the opposition.

Both sides have called for a restoration of dozens of judges axed by Musharraf when he declared a state of emergency in November to forestall a Supreme Court ruling on his eligibility for office. But they have disagreed on exactly how to do it and weekend negotiations in London did not produce a deal.



Pakistan's ruling coalition leader and former premier Nawaz Sharif (L) and his brother Shahbaz Sharif wave to supporters upon their arrival in Islamabad yesterday from London.

Separatists kill 10 in India's northeast

AFP, Guwahati

Tribal separatist rebels shot dead at least 10 railway workers in two weekend attacks in India's restive northeast, police said yesterday.

Heavily armed rebels from the outlawed Dima Halam Daoga (DHD) group raided a railway construction site in Assam state Sunday.

"Seven people were killed on the spot when the militants fired indiscriminately with automatic weapons," said S. Singh, a senior police official.

In another attack, DHD rebels shot dead three railway construction workers on Saturday in the same district, south of Assam's main city Guwahati.

"The militant group had asked railway construction works to be stopped immediately," another police official said.

The rebels said the attacks were in retaliation for an Indian army operation in which 12 of their cadres were killed. The army however said no anti-insurgency operation had been conducted in recent days.



Nepal's King Gyanendra Shah (L) and Queen Komal Shah leave in their car following their five-sacrifice annual event in the Hindu temple at Dakshinkali, some 18 km south of Kathmandu yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Commonwealth lifts Pakistan suspension

AFP, London

The Commonwealth re-admitted Pakistan as a full member yesterday after a six-month suspension triggered by a clampdown by President Pervez Musharraf, the grouping's secretary general said.

The suspension was lifted after a meeting of key ministers of the 53-nation Commonwealth in London.

The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) agreed that since November "the government of Pakistan has taken positive steps to fulfil its obligations in accordance with Commonwealth fundamental values and principles."

It accordingly decided that

Pakistan is now restored to the councils of the Commonwealth," Kamlesh Sharma said, reading from a statement after the talks at the Commonwealth's Marlborough House headquarters.

Pakistan was suspended from the 53-nation Commonwealth on November 22 last year, with the organisation saying that conditions under President Pervez Musharraf were in violation of its fundamental values.

Musharraf had declared a state of emergency on November 3, placing the chief justice under house arrest, detaining lawyers, rights activists and opposition members and curbing press

freedoms.

The Commonwealth ministers notably welcomed the fact that Musharraf had given up his military role, lifted the state of emergency, held elections and removed curbs on the mass media.

But it also urged Pakistan to "reinforce the independence of the judiciary and resolve current issues through the parliamentary process as soon as possible so that it contributes to democratic political stability in Pakistan."

There is need for reform. In this regard it welcomes the new government's state intention to reform the election commission and enhance its independence," the statement added.

Iran-IAEA hold new round of nuke talks

AFP, Tehran

tor for safeguard operations Herman Nackaerts is heading the IAEA team, the source said.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei is due to report in June on Iran's nuclear programme to the body's board of governors and the UN Security Council, which has imposed three sets of sanctions on Tehran over its nuclear defiance.

In April, Iran and the IAEA held two rounds of talks concentrating on allegations that the Islamic republic conducted studies on how to design a nuclear bomb.

The so-called "weaponisation studies" stem from intelligence provided to the IAEA by some

member states, but Iran insists that the talks are merely routine cooperation between the authorities and the agency.

Iran has refused to heed international demands to halt uranium enrichment, insisting that it has a right to the process to make nuclear fuel for meeting its increasing energy needs as a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Highly enriched uranium can also make the fissile core of an atom bomb, but Tehran has vehemently denied Western allegations it is seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

India planning to test fire 5000-km range missile

PTI, New Delhi

Buoyed by the string of successes with the intermediate range ballistic missile Agni-III, India is planning to test a missile with 5000 km range soon.

The test of the next series of Agni missiles will propel the country into the select group of nations, which have long range ballistic missiles.

Indicating that planning process for the test launch of such a missile was in final stages, Avinash Chander, Project Director of Agni-III, said today scientists were awaiting the government nod for carrying out the test flights which could be anytime by this year-end.

The launching of the 5,000-km range missile would entail strapping third stage booster rocket on Agni-III missiles powered by solid fuel propellant.

Along with longer range Agni missiles, India will also carry out further tests of its special naval missile, an acronym used by DRDO scientists for a submarine launched ballistic missile, and the second test of interceptor missile which will be undertaken by September-October.



PHOTO: AFP

Spiritual leader of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims Aga Khan (L) talks with United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government and Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi (R) during a meeting in New Delhi yesterday.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ICDDR,B invites applications from suitable candidates for the position of **Senior Budget & Cost Officer** with Budget and Costing Unit of Finance Department under the Executive Director's Division at Dhaka. Appointment will be made on a fixed-term basis for 2 years, which may be renewable depending on performance and availability of funds.

Salary -Annual Salary - Tk.362,780/- inclusive of house rent and conveyance allowances with other admissible benefits.

Benefits/facilities -14.8% retirement fund contribution by the Centre, Children allowance @Tk.1,420/- per child per month, medical facilities for dependent spouse and children, free group life insurance, and subsidized transport, canteen and daycare facilities.

Job Profile

- Responsible for interpreting terms and conditions of donor agreements;
- Approve online requisition and ensure budgetary controls;
- Prepare periodic financial reports in line with donor agreement;
- Raise invoices and ensure the funds are received on time;
- Assist Cost Analyst on various management reports;
- Carry out financial monitoring of partner organization.

Requirements

- Masters degree in commerce/MBA (major in Accounting and Finance), CMA/CA (part) with good academic records;

- At least 5 years working experience is required in the related field in multinational/ international non-profit organization;
- Should have experience in financial and cost accounting works including budget monitoring /cost analysis/interpreting rules and regulations of the international donor agencies and/or foreign organization(s) and its implementation and be able to meet audit queries thereon;
- Proficiency in the use of MS Office and should be experienced with ERP environment;
- Training on rules and regulations of various donors;
- Good written and spoken communication skill in English and Bengali;
- Ability to interpret rules laid down in the grant agreement;
- Age limit 35;

Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should submit online applications using ICDDR,B website; however, candidates may also submit applications with bio-data detailing experience and other particulars along with a recent passport size photograph to Manager, Human Resources, Box No. A-90, C/o. The Daily Star, 19, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 by May 21, 2008. Internal candidates must mention their Identification Numbers in the application.

Special Information

ICDDR,B is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from women candidates. Any persuasion will disqualify the candidature. Only shortlisted candidates shall be invited for the interview. Please write the position applied for at the top of the envelope. Test and interview will be held at Dhaka.

Visit ICDDR,B website on: www.icddr.b

Lanka opposition to mount legal challenge to govt polls win

AFP, Colombo

districts of Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Ampara.

Parts of the region were controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) until the government forced them out in a fierce offensive last year.

The opposition said President Mahinda Rajapakse's party and his allies -- including Tamil Tiger rebel defectors -- used "terror" tactics to bully voters and intimidate rivals. The government insists the polls were free and fair.

"The opposition parties faced the terror of the government and a former terrorist group," Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) leader Rauh Hakeem told reporters.

The end result is virtual daylight robbery of voters in the east. We are collecting evidence to go before the courts and will start a street agitation campaign," said Hakeem, whose party is allied with the main opposition United National Party.

UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe said Sri Lanka was "taking another step towards dictatorship."

The polls were the first to be held in 20 years in the tsunami-hit and ethnically-mixed eastern

districts of Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Ampara.

The president now wants to partially devolve power in the east from his ethnic Sinhalese-dominated government to ethnic Tamil allies in the Tamil People's Liberation Tigers (Tamil Tigers), made up of rebels who switched sides.

The TMVP are accused of continuing to carry guns, using child soldiers and intimidating locals. Their leader, who goes by the nom-de-guerre of Pillayan, wants to be the east's new chief minister.

The government pulled out of a truce with the LTTE in January, but says its decision to hold polls while the war rages in the north shows it is serious about addressing Tamil grievances and bringing the minority into the political process.

Rajapakse has hailed the result as "a clear mandate for peace through the defeat of terrorism, the strengthening of democracy and the development of the country."

US media predicts collapse of Pak govt

THE DAWN, Washington

US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher has advised Pakistani leaders to avoid a confrontation with Mr Musharraf.

The report also quoted federal Education Minister Ahsan Iqbal as saying that the PML-N "will have no justification to remain in the government if the judges were not reinstated."

Another report, distributed by a news agency, said that the failure of the talks over the judicial dispute in London had raised the "prospect that the three-month-old democratic government will collapse in disarray."

The prestigious Wall Street Journal, however, quoted a senior US PML-N official as saying that the US

official had urged the two leaders "not to take measures that could push the government into direct confrontation with Mr Musharraf."

The report also quoted federal Education Minister Ahsan Iqbal as saying that the PML-N "will have no justification to remain in the government if the judges were not reinstated."

Another report, distributed by a news agency, said that the failure of the talks over the judicial dispute in London had raised the "prospect that the three-month-old democratic government will collapse in disarray."

"This puja (ceremony) will bring good consequences to the world and to Nepal."



Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS)

125/1, Darus Salam, Mirpur, Dhaka 1216

e-mail: lali@dab-bd.org, pmc@hcdp-bd.org, Website: www.hcdp-bd.org

In line with the tradition of BIRDEM and Ibrahim Medical College the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh has taken a major initiative to develop expert health manpower in the country through establishing the Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS) in Dhaka. In the present year BIHS is planning to offer courses in Public Health Disciplines under the University of Dhaka with support from Oslo University. For academic and other posts (full-time) BIHS now invites application from qualified professional who are academic and research minded, dedicated and socially motivated. Attractive remuneration packages, competitive to those in private health/education sector, will be offered.

Post and Discipline	Qualification, Experience, Age and Salary Range
Professor and Associate Professor Community Medicine, Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Community Nutrition, Health Education & Health Promotion	As per BMDC Regulations in case of Applicants with medical background, and as per UGC Regulations in case of Applicants with nonmedical background; Salary: Negotiable
Assistant Professor In all of the above disciplines	As per BMDC Regulations in case of Applicants with medical background, and as per UGC Regulations in case of Applicants with nonmedical background; Age limit: 40 yrs; Salary: Negotiable
Senior Lecturer / Lecturer In all of the above disciplines	As per BMDC Regulations in case of Applicants with medical background, and as per UGC Regulations in case of Applicants with nonmedical background; Age limit: 35 yrs; Salary Range (consolidated): Tk 20000/- 30000/- per month
Librarian	4 yrs Hons or Masters (total 16 yrs of education) in Library Science. Preference will be given to experienced candidates; Salary Range (consolidated): Tk 13000/- 20000/- per month
Executive Officer	4 yrs Hons or Masters (total 16 yrs of education) in any discipline and 3 yrs experience in office management; Salary Range (consolidated): Tk 13000/- 20000/- per month
Library Assistant	HSC with Certificate Course in Library Science and 1 yr experience in library related activities; Salary Range (consolidated): Tk 7000/- Tk 9000/- per month