



Pak ruling coalition splits as Sharif quits

PML-N names own candidate against Zardari

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's ruling coalition split yesterday after former premier Nawaz Sharif withdrew over differences on the restoration of judges sacking by ex-president Pervez Musharraf.

The political showdown came two weeks before lawmakers were to choose a new president following the resignation of Musharraf one week ago and as Pakistan tries to keep a lid on Islamic militants from the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

"We have decided to quit the



Nawaz Sharif

coalition and sit on the opposition benches in parliament," Sharif told a news conference following a meeting of his Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) -- which was the second largest party in the coalition.

"We have taken this decision after we failed to find any ray of hope and none of the commitments made to us were fulfilled" by Asif Ali Zardari, head of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Sharif said.

"This situation forced us to

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Major parties find it hard to fulfil criteria

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The major political parties of the country, including Awami League (AL), Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jatiya Party (JP), yesterday said it will not be possible for them to hold party councils and change the party constitutions in time to get registered with the Election Commission (EC).

However, Workers' Party of Bangladesh (WP) and Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) say they can register their parties within the stipulated time.

According to an EC announcement, political parties have to apply for registration by October 15 in compliance with the terms and

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Parties must apply for registration by Oct 15

Only registered parties to contest next JS polls

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday announced that political parties must apply by October 15 to register with it on meeting a set of criteria.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda made the announcement at a press briefing at the EC Secretariat.

New provisions incorporated in the Representation of People Order (RPO) lately make registration mandatory for the parties to con-

test the parliamentary polls.

They also stipulate a number of conditions for registration. Those include having provisions in the party constitution disallowing front organisations or chapters abroad.

The EC plans to wrap up the registration by October 30 and a few days after that, announce the schedule for the general election tentatively planned to be held in the third week of December.

Officially, the registration process will get underway with publication of a gazette notification on

Shake-up in police admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government yesterday transferred three deputy inspector generals (DIGs) of police, one assistant inspector general of police (AIG) and brought changes in the posts of 26 deputy police commissioners and superintendents of police (SPs).

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in a gazette notification last night, also brought changes in the posts of Chittagong and Barisal metropolitan police commissioners and transferred 69 inspectors.

This was the first major reshuffle in the police administration since the Fakhrudin Ahmed-led caretaker government took came to power in January last year.

Earlier the government asked the establishment and home ministry to bring changes in both the

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Polls without BNP hardly possible: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda believes that parliamentary elections without the participation of BNP will not be acceptable.

"BNP is one of the largest political parties. How is it possible to hold parliamentary elections keeping BNP away?" Huda said in a press briefing yesterday.

The CEC said they will have to hold the parliamentary polls with the participation of all political parties "otherwise the election will

not be acceptable to us and others".

Huda yesterday said the Election Commission (EC) has been repeatedly asking the government to ensure participation of all major political parties including the BNP in the next parliamentary polls. He said the caretaker government still trying to resolve the issue.

BNP leaders loyal to detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia have been refusing to take part in the parliamentary polls held under the

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12 more bigwigs get HC bail

List includes Shamsul, MK Anwar, Tarique, Mamun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

anticipatory and ad interim bail. The benches also issued separate rules upon the government to explain as to why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail and the proceedings against them should not be quashed.

Meanwhile, BNP chief Khaleda Zia filed a petition with the HC for bail in the "Zia Orphanage Trust"

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petitions filed by the accused; two division benches of the HC granted

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