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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 sacked 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

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 commissioner and transferred 69 inspectors.

This was the first major reshuffle in the police administration since the Fakhruddin 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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Violence erupts after Tarique's injury news

1 dies as gas cylinder of torched vehicle explodes; dozens of vehicles battered, train engine set on fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Riots broke out in a vast area of the capital yesterday as pro-BNP students went on a rampage on and around campuses of Dhaka University, Dhaka College and Buet leaving one person dead and eight others injured.

The violence sparked as news spread in the city that ailing BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman injured himself in custody of law enforcers slipping on a bathroom floor.

The mob also vandalised

around 30 vehicles and set two ablaze during the rioting.

In a related late development in Bogra, BNP backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists set fire to the engine of a train in Gabtoli area, around 8:00pm. Earlier, they staged demonstrations and blocked roads and railways protesting government's 'disregard' towards Tarique.

Around 2:00pm in the capital, JCD activists torched a microbus on Mirpur Road near Dhaka College, leading to an explosion of the vehicle's CNG cylinder, a splin-

ter from which hit Jahangir Alam, a cloth trader, in the chest.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died, an hour into his admission.

"We walked about 40 yards past the burning microbus, when suddenly we heard a huge bang and instantly Jahangir collapsed on the road groaning in pain," Jahangir's friend Sanaullah, who was accompanying him, told The Daily Star.

Four of the injured were also admitted to DMCH. Three of them

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Major parties find it hard to fulfil criteria

HASAN JAHIID 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

the registration rules today or tomorrow, said sources in the EC.

Immediately afterwards, the commission will publish a circular in the newspapers, inviting applications for registration.

The political parties will have around 50 days to complete preparations to meet the conditions for registration. It is less than half the time designated for registration in the EC's electoral roadmap.

Major parties like Awami League (AL), BNP and Jatiya Party

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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

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bail to 12 people including nine politicians in separate cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), police and individuals.

Responding to separate bail petitions filed by the accused, two division benches of the HC granted

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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The CNG cylinder of this mini van exploded killing a pedestrian yesterday after Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists torched the vehicle in front of Dhaka College.

PHOTO: STAR

What actually happened to Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman grazed his forehead slipping on the bathroom floor in his prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSSMU) Hospital yesterday.

A BSSMU press release said Tarique was fully conscious and was talking normally. He neither fell unconscious nor vomited following the fall, it said.

Echoing the release, prison authorities said the BNP leader had his lunch as usual and was feeling normal. They, however, said he will be on observation for the next 48 hours.

A doctor, who sits on a medical board formed earlier for Tarique's

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ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH

Barkat Ullah Bulu, family chargesheeted

Arrest warrant against Harris, family

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against former commerce adviser Barkat Ullah Bulu, his wife and son in a case filed for amassing wealth worth Tk 3.23 crore illegally and concealing information of their wealth.

Meantime, a Dhaka court issued arrest warrants against 11 people including detained former premier Khaleda Zia's political secretary Harris Chowdhury and his family

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GRAFT CASES

Khaleda, Falu, MK Alamgir denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu and former state minister and Awami League (AL) leader Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in separate cases, while granted bail to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) councillor Mirza Khokon's wife Masuda Khan.

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan

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