

Thousands march against Zardari

AFP, Lahore

Thousands of angry protesters marched across Pakistan on Thursday denouncing President Asif Ali Zardari after a court barred the main opposition leader Nawaz Sharif from running for office.

A nervous government put paramilitaries on alert and police arrested 30 lawmakers in what marked the biggest protests against the unpopular Zardari since he assumed office last September in the nuclear-armed Muslim nation.

Main opposition leader and former prime minister Sharif called for action after the Supreme Court on Wednesday barred him and his brother from running for election and holding public office, sparking political turmoil.

Sharif brothers barred from election

Governor's rule in Punjab as PML-N accuses Zardari of dirty tricks, US says it is internal matters

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, ANI, PTI, Islamabad/Lahore

Pakistan teetered on the brink of political crisis Wednesday after the Supreme Court barred former prime minister Nawaz Sharif from contesting the polls and also declared null and void the election of his brother, Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

The verdict led to the fall of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government in the country's most politically consequential province.

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari Wednesday imposed Governor's rule in Punjab province, hours after the Supreme Court declared the election of its Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif null and void

forcing him to step down.

"On the advice of the Prime Minister under Article 237 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President has imposed Governor Rule in the province of Punjab with immediate effect for a period of two months," the President's spokesperson Farhatullah Babar said in a statement.

Nawaz Sharif immediately struck back, accusing President Asif Ali Zardari of offering him and his brother a "business deal" in return for letting the duo off in the two cases against them.

Protests broke out all over Pakistan, particularly in Punjab, the power base of the PML-N. In a domino effect, the decision also led to the Karachi Stock Exchange index falling by 300 points.

With Shahbaz Sharif out of the chief minister's chair, governor's rule was imposed in the province. The reins of governance have been handed to Governor Salman Taseer, a Pakistan's Peoples Party (PPP) man considered to be close to President Asif Ali Zardari.

Meanwhile, the United States has refused to comment on the Pakistan Supreme Court's decision to disqualify former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his brother Shahbaz Sharif from contesting elections, saying it is Pakistan's "internal matter".

According to The Daily Times, a statement issued by the US State Department said: "The disqualification was an internal matter and Washington would not comment on it."



Pakistan's ruling Pakistan People's Party activists (L) scuffle with the supporters of former premier Nawaz Sharif as they prevent them from marching towards a memorial of former premier Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi yesterday. Thousands of protesters marched across Pakistan torching pictures of President Asif Ali Zardari as a nervous government put paramilitaries on alert and detained 30 lawmakers.

Pakistan won't tolerate Qaeda in Swat valley

AFP, Washington

Pakistan's foreign minister vowed Wednesday his government would not tolerate al-Qaeda in its Swat Valley despite accepting a peace deal that includes imposition of Islamic Sharia law.

The West has voiced fears that the scenic valley, just 160km from Pakistan's capital, will turn into a safe haven for militants much like nearby Afghanistan during the 1996-2001 reign of the Taliban.

But Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, in Washington for a three-way strategy review with the United States and Afghanistan,

said the presence of al-Qaeda in the Swat Valley was "negligible if any."

"The Taliban will not be in charge. The government of Pakistan will be in charge there. We are not compromising with the Taliban," Qureshi told PBS public television.

"We have pushed al-Qaeda out ... of Swat and we are going to drive them out of the tribal belt," he said.

The Pakistani government has accepted the ceasefire with Islamic militants in the Swat Valley who waged a bloody two-year campaign that included forcibly shutting girls' schools and curbing entertainment.

'Info on Mumbai targets reached conspirators through Nepal'

FBI to visit Pakistan next month

PTI, AFP, Mumbai/Islamabad

Documents consisting details and maps of targets prepared by alleged LeT operative Fahim Ansari reached conspirators of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack via Nepal, said the chargesheet filed by Mumbai police.

"The accused Fahim Ansari after reconnaissance and preparation of detailed maps of the target locations, handed over the same to arrested co-accused Sabauddin Ahmed at Kathmandu in Nepal sometime in January 2008," said the chargesheet, which was filed yesterday.

The voluminous 11,280-page chargesheet mentions in all 47 names including nine dead terrorists and two Indian nationals Fahim Ansari and Sabauddin Ahmed.

Fahim and Sabauddin had been arrested in January last year by Uttar Pradesh Police in connection with the CRPF camp attacks there.

"The LeT co-conspirators then made arrangements for fetching the maps from Sabauddin Ahmed at Kathmandu," the chargesheet said.

The custody of the duo, who are in judicial custody till March 9, was taken by Mumbai police in December last year for their alleged involvement in Mumbai attacks.

"Both the arrested accused, Fahim Ansari and Sabauddin Ahmed, were in constant touch with each other through e-mail during the operation," a crime branch official said.

Meanwhile, the director of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will lead a team visiting Pakistan next month to help investigate the Mumbai attacks, the foreign ministry said Thursday.

New Delhi blamed the attacks, which killed 165 people last November, on the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the siege soured a five-year peace process between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan.

"I led by Robert Mueller, the team will arrive in Pakistan on March 4," foreign office spokesman Abdul Basit told a press briefing in Islamabad.



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistani firefighters try to extinguish a fire in the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad yesterday. A fire erupted at the luxury hotel in Islamabad, two months after it was reopened following a suicide truck bombing that killed 60 people.

VACANCY NOTICE

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for **Monitoring Specialist** position for **Disaster Response Facilities** programme.

The duration of the Service Contract is up to December 2009 initially, which is extendable upon satisfactory performance and availability of fund.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be submitted no later than 17:00 pm, Friday, 13 March 2009.

Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants and **only short-listed candidates will be contacted.**



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For Appointment
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11 more Tigers killed in battle

AFP, AP, Colombo

Sri Lankan troops have killed at least 11 Tamil Tiger rebels in the battle for the last urban area still in the hands of the guerrillas, the defence ministry said Thursday.

The deaths occurred Wednesday when soldiers pushed toward Puthukkudiruppu, a town on a narrow strip of land in the northeast controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the ministry said.

"Ground troops have positioned for a final thrust towards the remaining LTTE foothold," the ministry said.

It did not say if security forces suffered any casualties.

The LTTE did not comment on the fighting. Government forces have pushed the guerril-

las into a narrow bit of land and have said they hope to completely crush the guerrillas by April.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed in the fighting since 1972.

Conditions in Sri Lanka's overcrowded war zone have rapidly deteriorated as stranded families packed fields filled with human waste, water supplies dwindled and a makeshift hospital ran out of essential medicines, the top health official in the region said Wednesday.

Aid groups estimate more than 200,000 people are trapped in a small strip of rebel-held territory along the northeast coast as the government wages an all-out offensive to destroy the Tamil Tiger rebels and end this country's 25-year-old civil war.

Directorate General of Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
Web: www.dgdp.gov.bd
E-mail: info@dgdp.gov.bd

Re-Tender Notice

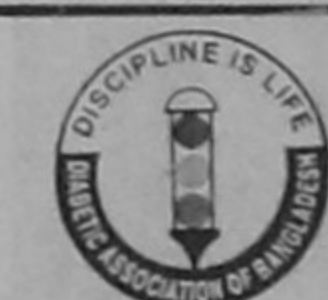
1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers (enlisted firms in Directorate General of Defence Purchase) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Air Force.

Ser No	Name of items & qty	Date of selling From - To	Date of opening	Currency	Tender No	Cost of invitation of tender
1.	Procurement of 13 X Line item spares for digital private automatic branch exchange (PABX) brand: KAREL of Bangladesh Air Force Base Mafur and Paharkanchonpur	01-03-09 to 15-03-09	16-03-09	Local	10268/AP-4	Tk 500.00

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment in respective value (non-refundable) on any working day between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender will be opened on the specified date at 1200 hrs in presence of the bidders (if present).

Dated 18 February 2009
ISPR/Misc/09/2798
GD-1028

Wing Commander
For Director General



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Eligibility for admission:

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 - a. The applicant must have MBBS or equivalent degree.
 - b. Should have completed 2 years after passing MBBS or equivalent.
 - c. 1 year training for Diploma & M Phil (Radiology & Imaging).
- MD/FCPS (Neonatology):
 - A candidate for admission must have FCPS/MD (Paediatrics) or equivalent degree recognized by the Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council (BM&DC). Eligible candidates do not require appearing in the written admission test. They will be selected through viva examination.
 - Application form shall be available BIRDEM Academy Office (Room No # 323) from 01.03.2009 after payment of Tk. 1000/- (one thousand) only not-refundable on Counter No. 11 & 12 (Ground Floor of BIRDEM).
 - Last date of receiving application form: 16.04.2009.
 - Admit card will be given from 09.05.2009-14.05.2009.
 - Written test will be held on Friday 15.05.2009 at 02.30pm.
 - Examination venue will be notified later on.

Following documents should be submitted with application form:

- Three copies of attested passport size recent photographs.
- Photocopies of following certificates (duly attested): SSC/equivalent, HSC/equivalent, MBBS/equivalent degree.
- Mark sheet of final MBBS/equivalent degree.
- Training certificates: Internship, 1 year for Diploma & M Phil (Radiology & Imaging).
- BM&DC Registration (permanent).
- Diploma certificate (where applicable).
- Certificate of place of posting signed by relevant higher authority.

Director
BIRDEM Academy