

Zardari leading nation toward mid-term polls: Nawaz Sharif

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, AP, Lahore

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif has said that President Asif Ali Zardari wants to drag the nation toward mid-term elections, Geo TV reported on Friday.

In an interview after his electoral disqualification on Friday, Nawaz Sharif said that no third force could come into power if the government showed maturity and responsibility.

"I will not come in their way if President Zardari restores the deposed judges," he said.

He further added that Zardari had backed out from the promises he made with his Nawaz League.

The democratic revolution could rise in the days to come and it must happen, he added.

Former prime minister said that deposed judges were not being restored due to the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO).

"We have not closed the door to contact the prime minister (Yousuf Raza Gilani)," he said.

He said President Zardari should become the descendant of Benazir Bhutto, and not of former president Pervez Musharraf.

Earlier Sharif has blamed the Pakistan government for the political turmoil in the country set off by a court order barring him

from elected office and warned Islamic extremists could exploit the unrest.

Sharif, in his first interview since the ruling on Wednesday, accused President Asif Ali Zardari of "declaring martial law on democracy," a charge echoing the complaints that forced former military ruler Pervez Musharraf to give up the presidency last year.

Sharif's interview with The Associated Press on Friday came amid a surge of political squabbling that is sure to distract the government of this nuclear-armed country from grappling with the Taliban and al-Qaeda threat spreading from the tribal areas along the frontier with Afghanistan.

Pakistan also is in the middle of a tense time with neighbouring India over the deadly militant attack on Mumbai, and Sharif said Zardari's pro-Western government isn't going to be able to face any of its key tasks if it continues to wage political war on him.

"I cannot concentrate on the very big issues we are confronted with," he said. "We have issues going on in the tribal area, we have this big issue in the Swat area, and we have a very ugly situation on our eastern border after the Bombay (Mumbai) killings."

The political uproar set off by the court ruling against Sharif is lining up influential civic groups led by disgruntled lawyers with Sharif's increasingly popular Pakistan Muslim League against Zardari. It's a confrontation that will also feed worries about

military intervention, a frequent result of political turmoil in Pakistan.

"I think we are heading for some sort of unfortunate situation," Sharif said at his villa near Lahore, without elaborating. "There are a lot of forces the militants, the extremists they are all there to take advantage."

The Supreme Court ruling upheld a ban on Sharif from contesting elections because of a past criminal conviction related to the 1999 military coup that ended his second term as prime minister and put Musharraf in power.

Sharif's brother also was disqualified from continuing as head of the provincial government in Punjab, the nation's biggest and most populous region. Zardari ousted the government there and installed a loyalist governor.

Other critics have alleged that Zardari influenced the Supreme Court decision to neutralize Sharif and consolidate the power of his own party, which holds a majority in the national Parliament. His supporters deny he had any role in the ruling.

Former President George W. Bush's administration often referred to Sharif's party as more religious than secular. But Sharif insisted in the interview that his party is democratic and eschews the politics of extremism. He said his party was the driving force behind improved relations with India before he was ousted by Musharraf's coup.



PHOTO: AFP

Supporters of former Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif burn tyres during a protest rally against his disqualification in Rawalpindi yesterday. Protesters are heeding a call from Sharif, who leads the second largest party in Pakistan, to rise up after the Supreme Court barred him and his brother from holding public office.



PHOTO: AFP

People move among the smouldering remains of a shelter for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in the northern town of Vavuniya yesterday. A fire destroyed the temporary shelters of some 45 families at the Poonthottam camp for Tamil civilians internally displaced in the early 1990s. Some 36,000 Tamils displaced by the recent fighting are also sheltered in the region.

Pak Army will not intervene in political crisis: Kayani

ANI, Washington

Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Kayani has assured that the Pakistan military would not poke its nose in political affairs of the country.

Kayani, who is on a visit to the United States currently, during a meeting with US Congress leaders here, said that the Army would not intervene in political crisis emerging in Pakistan at present.

"Gen Kayani, who unlike his predecessor Pervez Musharraf, has pledged to keep the military out of politics, said the Army would not intervene," The Nation quoted a Pakistani official present during the meeting, assaying.

Kayani is in Washington to participate in the review of the Obama administration's strategy for Pakistan and Afghanistan. He met Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Admiral Michael

Mullen, and discussed several important regional strategic policies.

He also met the United States special envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan, Richard Holbrooke and briefed him about Islamabad's stance on the policy review.

After Pakistan Foreign Minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi demanded unmanned Predator aircrafts from the US, Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Kayani has now asked the Obama administration to provide it with Cobra and Apache assault helicopter gunships to carry out operations against the insurgents in the tribal areas along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

General Kayani handed over the list of demands to senior US military officials during their recent meeting. The Daily Times reported.

Musharraf continues his political meetings

ANI, Karachi

Continuing his meetings with the country's top political figures, Former Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf has met important leaders of Sindh province here.

Musharraf met Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Muntaz Ali Bhutto over lunch meeting, which was hosted by former Provincial Assembly member, Jam Karan.

However, no details of the meeting were made public. Sindh politician, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi also refused to comment on the meeting.

He played down speculations about the current political scenario being discussed during the meeting. The News reports

Zardari sincere in terror fight, says India

AFP, New Delhi

India believes Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari is sincere about fighting terror but wants him to match his words with action, a senior government minister was quoted as saying yesterday.

Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee described Zardari as a "nice man" and a "gentleman" whose wife, former premier Benazir Bhutto, was a victim of a "senseless brutal terror attack," the Press Trust of India news agency reported. "I would like to say I believe in his (Zardari's) sincerity because he himself is a victim of a terror attack," Mukherjee said, referring to Bhutto's killing in a gun and suicide attack in December 2007.

"I believe he (Zardari) has a desire to fight against terrorism," the minister said but added: "My belief is not adequate. It must be backed by action taken by the govern-

ment and authorities of Pakistan."

India has been relentless in piling pressure on Islamabad to close down what it says are training camps for Islamic militant groups in Pakistan since the November 26-29 Mumbai militant attacks in which 165 people were killed.

The attacks have led to a sharp spike in tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours, which have fought three wars since independence in 1947.

India blames the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba Islamic group for staging the 60-hour siege in the country's commercial capital, a charge that Lashkar denies.

New Delhi has also accused Pakistan's powerful military spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence, of involvement in the attacks while steering clear of pointing a finger at the Zardari administration.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian Kashmiri Muslim relatives of missing persons stage a sit-in protest organised by the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) in Srinagar yesterday.

Lankan rebels lose more land

AP, Colombo

Government forces drove deeper into the Tamil Tigers' dwindling stronghold, confining the rebel group that once controlled a vast swath of northern Sri Lanka to an area smaller than Manhattan, the military said Friday.

The government has said it is on the verge of destroying the rebels and ending the Indian Ocean island nation's quarter-century civil war.

Aid groups estimate 200,000 ethnic Tamil civilians are trapped in that area along with the rebels and have expressed increasing concerns about their safety. Human Rights Watch reported last week that an estimated

2,000 civilians have been killed in the recent fighting.

Five civilians who were wounded in air strikes and artillery fire Friday died. Dr. Thurairaja Varatharajah said from a makeshift hospital in the war zone. Forty-one others are being treated for their wounds, he said.

Meanwhile, the group Doctors Without Borders expressed outrage that so little has been done for the civilians trapped in rebel territory, calling their condition "desperate and unacceptable." The voluntary organisation for medical practitioners urged the government and rebels to ensure the safety of civilians and allow them access to humanitarian assistance.

It said 90 percent of the injured people who arrive at its hospital in northern Vavuniya town, just outside the war zone, have gunshot or shrapnel wounds from fleeing rebel territory.

The rebels once controlled a de facto state measuring about 5,600 square miles (15,000 square kilometres). A recent government offensive drove them into a broad retreat and left them on the brink of defeat.

Verification of the fighting is not available because independent journalists are barred from the war zone.

Bangladesh Power Development Board Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Power Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board.
3	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer (Boiler), 1-4 Unit.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Narsingdi.
6	Invitation for	Supply of Tyre Tube for Yenverage Crane to the Store of Ghorasal Power Station.
7	Invitation Ref No.	Memo No: ঘোব/সং. ১-৪ইউ/০৪.০০২/২০০৯/১৪৮৪
8	Date	১৭-০২-২০০৯
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	BPDB/GOB.
11	Development partner (if applicable)	Not applicable.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.
14	Tender package No.	Not applicable.
15	Tender package name	Supply of Tyre Tube for Yenverage Crane to the Store of Ghorasal Power Station.
16	Tender publication date	Not applicable.
17	Tender last selling date	16-03-2009 up to 1-00 pm.
18	Tender closing date and time	Date 17-03-09 Time 11:30am.
19	Tender opening date and time	Date 17-03-09 Time 12-30 pm.
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address(s).
	-Selling tender document (principal)	Manager, Janata Bank, Palash, Narsingdi with the prior permission from the undersigned.
	-Selling tender document (others)	Chief Engineer (Generation), PDB, WAPDA Building, Motiheel, Dhaka.
	-Receiving tender document	Executive Engineer (Boiler), 1-4 Unit, GPS, PDB, Palash, Narsingdi.
	-Opening tender document	Office of the Executive Engineer (Boiler), 1-4 Unit, GPS, PDB, Palash, Narsingdi at 12:30 pm on 17-03-2009 in presence of tender opening committee. The tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the opening of the tender.
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Not necessary.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Eligibility of tenderer	a) Enlisted contractors of BPDB/bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/importers. b) Having valid trade licence, up-to-date Income Tax clearance certificate and Vat registration certificate.
23	Brief description of goods	Supply of Tyre Tube for Yenverage Crane to the Store of Ghorasal Power Station.
24	Brief description of related services	Not applicable.
25	Tender document price	Tk 400/- (four hundred) only non-refundable.
LOT INFORMATION		
	Lot No.	Identification of Lot
26		Supply of Tyre Tube for Yenverage Crane to the Store of Ghorasal Power Station
		GPS Compound
		Tender security amount in Taka
		Tk 5,000/- (five thousand) only refundable
		Completion time in days
		15 (fifteen) days
27	Type of payment for security amount	Bank Draft/Pay-Order in favour of DD(A/Cs)GRAO, PDB, Palash, Narsingdi.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
28	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Anil Baran Bhowmik.
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer (Boiler), 1-4 Unit.
30	Address of official inviting tender	GPS, PDB, Palash, Narsingdi.
31	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel-02-9349972/0628-74240.
32	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders.	

Memo No: ঘোব/সং. ১-৪ইউ/০৪.০০২/২০০৯/১৪৮৪
Biddyt/Jana-975(4)/23-2-09
GD-1100

প্রকৌশলী অমল বরুণ ভৌমিক
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (বয়লার)
সংরক্ষণ, ১-৪ ইউনিট, ঘোবিক,
বিউরো, পলাশ, নরসিংদী।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh						
Headquarters Bangladesh Rifles						
Communication Directorate, Peelkhana, Dhaka						
Invitation for Tender No. 26/2008-09/CD						
Dated 19 February 2009						
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs/Headquarters Bangladesh Rifles, Communication Directorate, Peelkhana, Dhaka.				
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Rifles.				
3.	Procuring entity name	Director General, Bangladesh Rifles.				
4.	Procuring entity code	2231 Bangladesh Rifles.				
5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.				
6.	Invitation for	Repeater.				
7.	Invitation Reference No.	416/CD.				
8.	Date	19 February 2009.				
KEY INFORMATION						
9.	Procurement method	Open tender.				
FUNDING INFORMATION						
10.	Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh (GOB).				
PARTICULAR INFORMATION						
11.	Date of advertisement for tender	25 February 2009.				
12.	Tender last selling date	31 March 2009.				
13.	Tender closing date and time	09 April 2009 at 1130 hours.				
14.	Tender opening date and time	09 April 2009 at 1200 hours.				
15.	Name and address of the office(s)	Address				
	a. Selling tender document	Headquarters Bangladesh Rifles, Communication Directorate, Peelkhana, Dhaka.				
	b. Receiving tender document	Box kept at Gate No-4 of Headquarters Bangladesh Rifles, Peelkhana, Dhaka.				
	c. Opening tender document	Headquarters Bangladesh Rifles, Communication Directorate, Peelkhana, Dhaka.				
16.	Pre-tender meeting place, date and time	Headquarters Bangladesh Rifles, Communication Directorate, Peelkhana, Dhaka on 01 April 2009 at 1000 hours.				
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER						
17.	Experience of tenderer	As per tender documents.				
18.	Price of tender document	Tk. 2,000/- (two thousand) each (non-refundable).				
DETAILS						
	SI	Description	Qty	Details	Tender security money	Duration of supply
	a.	Repeater	20	As per schedule	2,22,000/-	As per deed
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS						
21.	Name of officer inviting tender	Syed Quamruzzaman.				
22.	Designation of official inviting tender	Lieutenant Colonel, GSO-1 (Communication).				
23.	Address of office inviting tender and telephone No.	Headquarters Bangladesh Rifles, Communication Directorate, Peelkhana, Dhaka. Tel: 8340001 Ext: 333.				
24.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.					
25.	All proceedings will be regulated as per PPR-2008.					
GSO-1 (Communication) For Director General						