



In this handout picture released by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), former Pakistani premier Nawaz Sharif (C) addresses a party meeting in Lahore on Wednesday. The restoration of top judges two years after their dismissal will give Pakistan desperately needed rule of law and marks up a victory for opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, analysts said.

Pakistan appeals Sharif disqualification

PML-N may rejoin govt, parliament to be supreme: Gilani

AFP, INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad

The Pakistan government filed appeals yesterday to overturn a court ruling that banned opposition leader Nawaz Sharif and his brother from contesting elections and sparked a political crisis.

The petitions were filed on the order of Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, who Monday pledged that the government would reinstate judges sacked under emergency rule and file a petition against the Sharif brothers' ban.

"We have filed four review petitions and asked the court to review the disqualification of Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz

Sharif," Attorney General Latif Khosa told reporters outside the supreme court.

"We have asked the court to start the hearing from tomorrow. If that is not possible, it should be heard as early as possible," he said.

The Supreme Court on February 25 disqualified the Sharifs from contesting elections and holding public office, following criminal convictions.

After the government's significant climbdown, Sharif called off a mass protest that had been due to descend on the capital, calming widespread fears of unrest and going some way towards defusing a political showdown.

In the strongest assertion of his author-

ity yet, Pakistani Prime Minister has said opposition leader Nawaz Sharif could rejoin his government, which will endeavour to return to parliament the powers that had been taken away by former military strongman Pervez Musharraf.

"We are committed to changing the system," Gilani told the Wall Street Journal in an interview, adding: "My main endeavour is to end the politics of confrontation."

"I am sure we can work with Nawaz Sharif in strengthening the democratic process," Gilani maintained.

"We have to return to parliamentary democracy on the lines of Westminster," he added.

Pak presidency refutes reports of rift in Bhutto family

PTI, Islamabad

Pakistan's presidency today refuted media reports about a purported rift between President Asif Ali Zardari and his sister-in-law Sanam Bhutto, saying they were intended to damage the Bhutto family and cause a split in the ruling Pakistan People's Party.

Sanam Bhutto, the sister of Zardari's slain wife Benazir Bhutto, had denied giving any interview to journalist Daphne Barak, which was the basis of the reports in the Pakistani media, presidential spokesman Farhatullah Babar said in a statement issued here.

Is Zardari seeking to oust Gilani?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad

Smarter than his capitulation to a lawyers' protest, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari now seems to be training his guns on Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani, the man who emerged stronger with his deft handling of a crisis that had threatened to spin out of control.

Barely had the dust settled on the agitation for reinstating the Supreme Court and high court judges sacked in 2007 that Zardari reached out to a once untouchable enemy in a bid to hit out at Gilani through the back door in a familiar rerun of sub-continental political machinations.

At issue, for the moment, is government formation in Pakistan's most politically significant province of Punjab, where chief minister Shahbaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led coalition fell after the

Supreme Court barred him and elder brother Nawaz Sharif from contesting elections.

Zardari's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was a junior partner in the coalition.

In the wake of the lawyers' agitation, the government not only ordered the reinstatement of the judges then president Pervez Musharraf had sacked after imposing an emergency Nov 3, 2007 but also a review of the Supreme Court verdict against the Sharifs.

Faced with the prospect of the judgment being overturned and Shahbaz Sharif returning to power, Zardari has quietly opened talks with the once-pariah Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) - which was once aligned to former president Pervez Musharraf and ruled the country till it was ousted in the February 2008 general elections - in a bid to form a PPP-led coalition.

'Sleepless nights for Zardari, Musharraf'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad

For once, both Pakistani President Asif Zardari and his predecessor seem to be in the same boat, spending sleepless nights over the reinstatement Saturday of sacked Supreme Court chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

Zardari would be fearing a review of the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) Musharraf had enacted in 2007 granting Zardari, his slain wife Benazir Bhutto and a host of Pakistani politicians immunity from the corruption cases pending against them.

The NRO had also permitted Zardari and Bhutto to return home from exile in October 2007.

On his part, Musharraf would be keeping his fingers crossed on the Supreme Court examining the validity of the emergency he declared Nov 3, 2007 and three apex court judgements following that.

What will also be keeping Musharraf on tenterhooks is the fact that it was he who had sacked Chaudhry and the entire Supreme Court bench when they refused to take fresh oath under the Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO) that was proclaimed along with the emergency.

This was the second time Musharraf had acted against Chaudhry, suspending him March 9, 2007 after the chief justice refused to go slow on his judicial activism by taking up issues like rising prices and privatisation.



Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) leader LK Advani (C) greets protesting Indian military veterans in New Delhi yesterday. Hundreds of military veterans have been protesting against the non-implementation of pension reforms and the alleged raw deal given to armed forces by the government's sixth Pay Commission as they demand one rank one pension.

Shariah court becomes operational in Swat

ANI, Peshawar

A Shariah court has started operating in Matta Tehsil of Swat Valley Wednesday.

A total of 24 cases were filed at the court out of which two were disposed today itself.

The very first case was filed by a driver in the court of Qazi Ali Khan in which the driver stated that he wanted patch up with the bereaved family of a man killed in an accident by his car.

The parents of the deceased, who were present in the court, pardoned the driver.

Earlier, Lawyers' associations had expressed serious concern over TNSM chief Sufi Mohammad's warning to the Swat lower judiciary

against attending courts in the Valley.

The Swat District Bar Association (SDBA) and NWFP lawyer bodies said on Tuesday that the move would create a judicial crisis in the Malakand Division, the Daily Times reports.

SDBA President Aftab Alam said the Qazi (Sharia) courts were deciding cases only on simple applications and there were no proper proceedings of cases in these courts.

He urged the government either to immediately settle the issue with Sufi to allow the judicial system to function in Swat.

Swat-based high court lawyers said that Sufi was paralyzing judicial system

in the region after Taliban caused havoc on the educational and police system.

Peshawar High Court Bar Association (PHCBA) President Abdul Lateef Afridi said Sufi's warning to judicial officers had created an alarming situation in the Malakand Division.

Renowned constitutional expert Qazi Mohammad Anwar said that the law does not permit a person to stop the judicial system.

"It will be like the law of the jungle to establish own courts and stop judicial system. Sufi and his supporters have their writ in Swat and under the law of the jungle, those having power impose their decisions on others," he said.



Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Leon Panetta (L) speaks with Indian security official as he arrives for a meeting with Indian Home Minister P Chidambaram in New Delhi yesterday.

CIA chief in India to talk Pakistan, Afghanistan

AFP, New Delhi

New CIA chief Leon Panetta was in India yesterday for high-level talks on the worsening violence in Pakistan and Afghanistan, sending a signal of the deepening ties between Washington and New Delhi.

Panetta, who arrived in New Delhi late Wednesday, held "exhaustive discussions"

with Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram, an Indian official said on condition he not be named.

"This is part of the series of high level contacts we have had with the US administration since the Mumbai attacks" last year in which at least 165 people were killed, including six Americans, said the official.

Uma meets Advani, says she is coming home

CNN-IBN, New Delhi

There are no permanent enemies in politics. In what could be the return of the prodigal daughter, expelled BJP leader Uma Bharati is leaving no stone unturned to cosy up to BJP's prime ministerial candidate, LK Advani.

Uma Bharati had in a statement on Wednesday supported Advani's prime ministerial candidature.

However, she said she won't re-join BJP or contest elections this time because her party "does not have adequate funds".

Israel's ex-president indicted for rape

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's ex-president Moshe Katsav was formally charged with rape and sexual harassment on Thursday, the justice ministry said.

"He has been indicted for rape and sexual harassment," a spokeswoman for the justice ministry told AFP.

The move follows a March 8 announcement by prosecutors that they would indict the 63-year-old Iranian-born father of five who was forced to step down from office over the charges two years ago.

Jamuna Bank Limited
Head Office, Chini Shilpa Bhaban, 3, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh; Phone # 9570912, 9555141

NOTICE FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONSULTANT FOR JAMUNA BANK TOWER

- Jamuna Bank Limited invites applications from benefited Bangladeshi Engineering & Architectural Consultants for short-listing as Pre-qualified Consultants.
- The Consultant is expected to render Engineering and Architectural services in connection with the construction of Jamuna Bank Tower (subject to approval of RAJUK) at Plot # 14, Block-CWS(C), Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka.
- Consulting services will include all Architectural and Engineering design work starting from soil investigation. This will also include preparation of tender documents for construction and supervision of the project till handing over.
- Interested Consultants are requested to submit their application in the prescribed form. Form will be available from the Bank on payment of cash Tk. 1,000.00 (no refundable) from 29.03.2009 to 12.04.2009 on all working days during office hours in System & Operations Division, Head Office of Jamuna Bank Limited, 2 Dilkusha C/A, (3rd Floor), Dhaka-1000.
- Consultants must fulfill the following criteria:
 - Year of experience must not be less than 10 years as a firm/company.
 - Consultants must have at least 2(two) graduate Architects & 2(two) graduate Structural Engineers with minimum 15 years of experience as a full time employee.
 - Consultants must have completed a project of minimum 15 storied building costing not less than 20(twenty) Crore taka and having at least one basement floor in a single tender during the last 10(ten) years.
- Consultants without having above eligible criteria need not apply for pre-qualification.
- Applications in prescribed forms must reach to the Senior Vice President, System & Operations Division, Jamuna Bank Limited, Head Office, 2 Dilkusha C/A (3rd Floor), Dhaka-1000 by 12.00 noon of 30.04.2009.
- Jamuna Bank Limited reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Sd/-
(Shahedul Alam Khan)
Senior Vice President

JOB VACANCY

An International Development Organization working in Bangladesh invites applications from suitable candidates for the following position

Monitoring & Documentation Officer (MDO)

Job Responsibilities

The MDO is a mid-level position based in Dhaka. S/he will work closely with team members and partner NGOs for ensuring effective implementation of non-formal education and life-skills programs. S/he will be responsible to

- Design and review monitoring tools and techniques for the programs;
- Develop and review formats, checklists and guidelines for reporting system;
- Collect, compile and analyze relevant data and prepare various reports;
- Undertake regular monitoring visits to the field;
- Translate program related materials and documents into English;
- Collect case studies, good practices and lessons learned and ensure proper documentation;
- Provide training and necessary capacity development supports to staff & partner NGOs;
- Maintain network & linkages with similar organizations;

Required Qualifications & Experience

- Master's Degree in Social Sciences;
- At least 5 years relevant working experience;
- Good written and oral communication skills both in Bangla & English;
- Computer proficiency in MS Office and workable knowledge and understanding in SPSS;

Required Competencies

- Strong background and skills in monitoring of development programs;
- Ability to manage workload and meet deadlines
- A team player with interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to take initiative
- Willingness to travel frequently to the field;

Interested candidates should apply with the CV and a recent photograph by March 31, 2009 to Post Box # 5093, New Market, Dhaka-1205. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews. Female candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

Vacancy Announcement

UNDP in partnership with the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) of the Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives and UN-Habitat is implementing the Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Project (UPPRP) in Bangladesh with funding from the UK's Department for International Development and UNDP. The project is being implemented over the next 7 years and will be supported by a grant of approximately USD 120 million.

The project aims to improve the livelihoods and living conditions of three million urban poor and extremely poor people, especially women and girls, living in 30 towns and cities in Bangladesh. It will achieve this aim through providing support for participatory community upgrading through community contracting, supporting viable and sustainable livelihoods and social and economic development activities, addressing issues of security of tenure and the needs of the extreme poor, and working with others to create a more pro-poor urban policy environment. The project will support the development of town-wide poverty reduction and economic development strategies poverty reduction and economic development strategies through partnerships with urban poor communities, civil society and local government.

UNDP is looking for potential candidates to fill the following posts of UPPRP :

- Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator-1 post
- Training Coordinator - 1 post
- Extreme Poverty Coordinator - 1 post
- Town Manager - 8 posts
- Admin Expert - 1 post
- Extreme Poverty Expert - 2 posts
- ICT Website Expert - 1 post
- Finance Expert - 1 post
- Monitoring and Evaluation Expert - 3 posts
- Finance/Accountant Expert (Town based)-23 posts
- Urban Planning Expert - 3 posts
- Community Organizer - 82 posts : The COs will provide support, facilitate and assist the project team on community mobilization, settlement improvement, socio-economic development, training and capacity building. The applicants should have minimum HSC or equivalent level education and minimum five years experience in urban community development or poverty reduction programmes in donor, NGO or the government sector. Applicants having urban poverty reduction experience will be given preference. Details of Terms of Reference is available online at <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>

Submission of Application: Candidates interested to apply for positions 1 - 11 must apply online (hard copy applications will not be considered). For details of the Terms of Reference and applying online, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 2nd April 2009.

Interested candidates for the position of **Community Organizer** are requested to send hard copy applications including curriculum vitae and a recent passport-size photograph in A4 size envelopes marking 'Confidential' and the position title on the envelope addressed to the **Operations Manager, UNDP-Dhaka, GPO Box: 224, Dhaka-1000**, or deposit at the Deposit Box at the **IDB Bhaban (Ground Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207**. Applications will be received until close of business hours on 5th April 2009.