



TIGERS GO DOWN

Bangladesh lose the first T20 International against Zimbabwe
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PARKER IN DHAKA

Director Taylor Hackford's thriller will premiere in Star Cineplex
PAGE 9

GUILTY OF GENOCIDE

Rios Montt becomes first Latino ex-dictator convicted of trying to exterminate an entire race
PAGE 8

Sharif's party ahead in Pakistan election

Imran Khan's party concedes defeat, to 'form govt in northwest'; voters defy violence as 29 killed



Pakistan Muslim League (N)
117 (leading in)



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
34



Pakistan People's Party
35

Source: Geo TV

AGENCIES

Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif, seeking to become prime minister for a third time, appeared way ahead of his rivals in yesterday's general election, according to a partial count of votes cast.

The election, in which 86 million people were eligible to vote, will bring the first transition between civilian governments in a country that has been ruled by the military for more than half of its turbulent history.

Despite attacks that killed 29 people, Pakistanis turned out in huge numbers Saturday to vote in an election that marked a historic democratic transfer of power in a

country plagued by military coups.

The Pakistani Taliban, which has been waging a bloody insurgency against the government for years, tried to disrupt the election because the militants believe the country's democracy runs counter to Islam.

The government responded by deploying an estimated 600,000 security personnel across the country to protect polling sites and voters, reports AP.

Many Pakistanis seemed determined to cast their ballots despite a series of gun and bomb attacks against candidates, party workers and voters in cities across the country that killed 29 people yesterday.

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Pak polls: Brief history

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Pakistan, having come into being in August 1947, took nine years to have a constitution framed for it by its ruling classes. Once the constitution took effect in 1956, it was expected that the country's first general election would take place in early 1959. The coup d'etat by President Iskandar Mirza and army chief Mohammad Ayub Khan in

October 1958 put paid to that objective.

The first general election in the country eventually took place in December 1970 under Pakistan's second military ruler Yahya Khan. The election, won by the Awami League led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was subsequently nullified by the regime when it launched a genocide in East Pakistan in March 1971. Nine

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BODY RECOVERED

49

DEATH TOLL

1,117

Tahera Begum, in a disconsolate state, after her daughter Shaheeda's body was pulled out of the rubble of Rana Plaza and taken to Adhar Chandra High School in Savar for identification yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

POLLS-TIME GOVT

Let's talk; say 'yes' first

Govt, BNP respond to UN initiative for ending impasse

RASHIDUL HASAN

The United Nations yesterday urged the government and the opposition in Bangladesh to reach a consensus on holding a free and fair national election with the participation of all political parties.

A UN delegation, now in Dhaka in efforts to resolve the political stale-

mate, made the call at meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia.



Oscar Fernández-Taranco, assistant UN secretary-general for political affairs, leads the five-member team.

The prime minister told the delegation that her offer of talks still stood despite the opposition's ultimatum and "violent activities". She also reiter-

ated that there should be no precondition for sitting in a dialogue, meeting sources said.

On the other hand, Khaleda said no dialogue would be meaningful if the government did not agree in principle to accept the opposition demand for holding the next general election under an interim government.

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