

Protesting Pakistani lawyers, police clash

by UPI

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- Riot-equipped Pakistani police in Multan took to picking up stones thrown at them and hurling them back at the lawyers, Alalam Satellite TV reported. Witnesses said at least three lawyers were injured, and the same number were arrested, the report said. In Islamabad, deposed Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry spoke to more than 20 lawyers at the Islamabad Bar Association headquarters by someone holding a cell phone up to a loudspeaker. He said he and his fellow justices ruled President Pervez Musharraf's weekend emergency decree of martial law as unconstitutional, and called on civil servants and members of the military not to obey the emergency order, Voice of America reported. Soon after he spoke, cellular telephone service was cut off, the report said. Benazir Bhutto, the leader of the country's largest opposition party flew to Islamabad Tuesday from her home in Karachi, and told reporters she would meet with other political leaders but would not meet or negotiate with Musharraf, a New York Times correspondent reported. Musharraf has promised to restore democracy, but there was no clear indication of when elections would be held, the reports said.

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