

Bhutto, Sharif may come together

by UPI

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - The parties of two former Pakistan prime ministers may come together as pressure mounts on President Pervez Musharraf to resign. Benazir Bhutto, who had been expected to conclude a power-sharing deal with Musharraf, is now under house arrest for planning to lead a march against Musharraf's emergency decree. She has joined others in calling for Musharraf's resignation and ruled out any deal with the general. Bhutto and her Pakistan People's Party are now ready to work with another former Premier Nawaz Sharif and other political groups, The Independent reported Wednesday. Sharif, who has lived mostly in Saudi Arabia since being overthrown by Musharraf in a 1999 coup, appeared receptive to Bhutto's remarks, saying Pakistan's opposition parties are uniting. Musharraf's office has not responded to Bhutto's statements, but Railway Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said "she talks one thing but walks in a different way." U.S. President George Bush has asked Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte to visit Pakistan to deal with its worsening political situation. Negroponte is expected in Islamabad this week. Pakistan Interior Ministry spokesman Javed Iqbal Cheema said about 3,000 people have been arrested since Musharraf's Nov. 3 emergency decree, Xinhua, the Chinese state news agency, reported.

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