

Bhutto: Party may still boycott election

by UPI

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- Benazir Bhutto said her party will campaign in the Jan. 8 Pakistani election on the five E's -- education, employment, energy, environment and equality. Bhutto also said that the Pakistan People's Party has not ruled out boycotting the election, the Press Trust of India reported. The opposition coalition that includes another former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, and a religious party, Jamaat e-Islami, have said they will not participate unless President Pervez Musharraf reinstates judges expelled from the Supreme Court. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz said that Sharif plans discussions with Bhutto and other potential allies on the boycott, The Financial Times reported. Bhutto said that at the moment she plans to participate in the election "under protest." Bhutto returned to Pakistan after discussions with Musharraf on a possible alliance but became harshly critical of him after he declared a state of emergency. Musharraf said Friday that he plans to form no coalition with anyone in advance of the election.

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