

Sharif's party to take part in elections

by UPI

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's party plans to participate in upcoming elections, reversing an earlier decision. The elections were originally set for Jan. 8 but the election commission will decide Tuesday whether to postpone them. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League party had planned to boycott the elections in the aftermath of Thursday's assassination of Benazir Bhutto, also a former prime minister. Bhutto led the Pakistan People's Party. Sharif had decided to stay out of the elections in solidarity with PPP, Dawn reported. The PML-N's change of decision came after a Sunday resolution by the Bhutto party's executive committee urging Sharif's party to contend at the polls, the report said. PML-N Chairman Raja Zafarul Haq, however, told Dawn a formal announcement on the polls would be taken after a meeting of the party's central working committee this week. The Dawn report said Haq also endorsed a PPP demand that a United Nations commission should investigate Bhutto's assassination. Separately, Bhutto's party decided to hand over the leadership to her young son Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

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