

## Official says PPP can work with Musharraf

by UPI

LAHORE, Pakistan -- A Pakistan People's Party prime ministerial candidate suggested Sunday his party could work with President Pervez Musharraf, Dawn reported. Chaudhry Ahmed Mukhtar was quoted as telling Dawn, "One must be able to work with everyone, be it a political party or the president." Mukhtar is one of the candidates for the prime minister's post from the PPP, which won the largest number of seats in the parliamentary elections in January. PPP, the party of slain former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, is co-chaired by Bhutto's widower Asif Ali Zardari. The PPP and a faction of the Pakistan Muslim League led by Nawaz Sharif, another former prime minister, is seeking to form a coalition government amid resentment against working with Musharraf. Dawn quoted Mukhtar as saying the late Benazir Bhutto had maintained the PPP could have a working relationship with Musharraf, adding her husband also held a similar opinion. "If we say we'll not work with him, the PPP will not be able to form government. This means there will be a stalemate from the word 'go,'" Mukhtar said. In the January election, Mukhtar, a former Pakistani commerce minister, defeated Shujaat Husain, president of the party supporting Musharraf.

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