

Musharraf poll victory in limbo

by UPI

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- Pakistan opposition leaders say the Bush administration's support for the re-election of President Gen. Pervez Musharraf is misguided. "Musharraf's election will neither consolidate his position nor bring stability to Pakistan. It will not benefit the U.S. agenda," said Raja Zafar ul Haq, a leader of the Pakistan Muslim League. The Bush administration's endorsement of Saturday's election as fair has irritated opposition leaders as they wait for Pakistan's Supreme Court to rule on the legality of the outcome, Britain's Financial Times reported Monday. It will be at least another 10 days of political limbo before the high court hears a petition from Wajihuddin Ahmed, a candidate supported by activist lawyers, leaving a slight chance the election might be overturned, the Times said. Musharraf, 64, secured 98 percent of the votes cast by Parliament and legislators. If the high court confirms his victory, Musharraf, who seized power 1999, stands to become Pakistan's longest-serving leader.

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