

Baluch Party Demands Probe Into Missing Persons

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parties led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to hold talks on alleged rigging in the July 25 general election.

MQM-P MNA and coordination committee member Aminul Haq said though MQM decided to support Khan for the Prime Minister slot, they were yet to decide if they will take any ministries. The final decision in this regard will be taken in a few days, he added.

Meanwhile, a PTI delegation led by leaders Naeemul Haque and Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind met BNP-M chief Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal in Islamabad to seek their backing. After the meeting, Mengal said: "I am thankful to the PTI leadership for extending

us an invite to be part of the federal government." Talking about the demands he put forth, the leader said that "we want missing persons to be recovered as well as implementation of China Pakistan Economic Corridor".

"If we are given a satisfactory response to our demands then we are ready to support the party," he said. Geo News quoted sources as saying that the PTI also invited Mengal for a one-on-one meeting with Khan.

The BNP-M secured three seats in the National Assembly during the polls while the MQM-P won six seats -- four in Karachi and two in Hyderabad. The PTI needs support of smaller parties as it is short of numbers to form its government independently.



Supporters of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan, a political party, protest the results of the recently concluded general elections. (AP Photo/Fareed Khan)

Pope Against Death Penalty

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis has decided to change the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on death penalty, by declaring it as "inadmissible" and encouraging his Bishops across the world to push for its abolition, the Vatican said on Thursday.

The Catechism of the Church, which sums up the teachings, previously stated that death penalty could be used in some cases. But it now called the death term "inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person", the BBC reported.

The church previously viewed the death penalty, carried out by a legitimate authority after a fair trial, as an "appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit extreme, means of safeguarding the common good", accord-

ing to the Vatican statement.

"This development centres principally on the clearer awareness of the Church for the respect due to every human life," it said. Pope Francis has previously spoken out against the death penalty, saying last year it "heavily wounds human dignity" and is an inhuman measure. Capital punishment was "in itself, contrary to the Gospel", he had said.

The move puts the Pope at odds with US President Donald Trump, who in March advocated the death penalty for drug dealers. Trump had also called for terrorists and "perverts" to be put to death.

According to Amnesty International, 1,032 people were executed in 23 countries in 2016. Four countries account for 87 per cent of global executions: Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Pakistan.

Amit Shah Asks Opposition To Take Stand On 'Intruders'

NEW DELHI: BJP President Amit Shah on Tuesday said that those whose names are not in the draft National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam are "intruders" as they have failed to prove their Indian citizenship, and asked the political parties opposing it to clear their stand.

Addressing a press conference here, Shah also hit out at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her "civil war" remarks and also took on those terming the NRC as violation of human rights, saying the use of the country's resources by Bangladeshi intruders is human rights violation of crores of Indians.

"Those, whose names are not in the list are intruders but this is not the final one. They can raise objections and appeal and will have to complete the procedure then it will be decided whether their name will be in the list or not," he said.

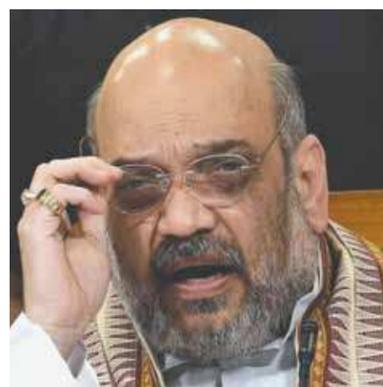
He said that a confusion is being spread that Indian citizens name have been removed from the list, just to mislead the people.

"Those, who could not prove their citizenship, their names have been removed from the list," he said.

Shah said that the NRC is a matter of national security for the party and accused the opposition of indulging in vote bank politics. "For BJP the matter of NRC is an issue of national security. Our top priority is to safeguard our borders. To implement Supreme Court's order in full stop and comma is the firm stand of BJP government," he said.

Reminding the Congress that the NRC was their idea, he said: "The Assam Accord was signed by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on August 14, 1984. I want to ask the Congress: how can you raise questions about the NRC today?" Shah said.

Attacking the opposition parties for creating confusion over the first list of the NRC, Shah said: "Congress, Trinamool



Congress and other parties who are speaking against NRC Assam should clear their stand on Bangladeshi infiltrators."

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, who is also a Rajya Sabha MP, said the entire process of NRC was done under the supervision of the Supreme Court and the most transparent process was used to prepare the list.

Slamming the Congress for not completing the NRC, Shah said: "You didn't have the guts to prepare the list and send back the infiltrators."

"For vote bank politics, how can you question the NRC procedure?"

He also said that the Congress is known for changing its stand on political issues. "We ask Congress to clear their stand and not indulge in vote bank politics," Shah said. He said that no country can function if it keeps on allowing infiltrators. "BJP will implement the NRC Assam under the supervision of Supreme Court," he said.

The BJP President said that the opposition parties are talking about human rights violations. "Don't they care about the human rights of the citizens of the country? Isn't it the violation of human rights for the people of country that the Bangladeshis are using the resources of the country? Isn't it a violation of national security?" he said.

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