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Pakistan in turmoil as Bhutto is buried

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29th December, 2007

THE ARTICLE

Violence has spread across Pakistan as assassinated Benazir Bhutto was buried on Friday. The former prime minister was laid to rest next to her father in the family mausoleum in her native Sindh province. Tens of thousands of mourners assembled to see their beloved leader's coffin, draped in political party colours. They wailed and beat their heads in grief as the funeral procession passed by. Her husband Asif Ali Zardari wept as he sat in the car carrying his slain wife's body. Pakistan's government has declared three days of mourning for the assassinated opposition leader, while the party she headed, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has called for 40 days. Her death on Thursday at the hands of a suicide bomber at an election rally in Rawalpindi has plunged Pakistan into crisis. Riots have broken out all over the country with rioters attacking police, burning tires and looting stores.

The death of 54-year-old Bhutto leaves Pakistan in a state of political vacuum, with the short-term future of the country cloaked in uncertainty. There are fears the elections scheduled for January the 8th could be put off. This would please those responsible for her death, who seem intent on derailing attempts to bring democracy to Pakistan. Many believe Al Qaeda, who opposed Bhutto's liberal views, was behind the suicide attack. The international community are very keen to see the elections take place on time to avoid further chaos in the country. Representatives of Bhutto's PPP party have yet to say if they will contest the election and who would represent it. Bhutto had hoped to restore democracy and stability to Pakistan and free it from extremism. In 1988, aged just 35, she became the Muslim world's first democratically elected female prime minister. She was trying to lead her country for a third time.

WARM-UPS

1. PAKISTAN: Walk around the class and talk to other students about Pakistan. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

violence / assassinations / mourners / grief / funerals / suicide bombers / riots / political vacuum / short-term future / democracy / stability / extremism

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. ASSASSINATIONS: With your partner(s), decide on how different countries / the world changed following these assassinations. What would each person achieved if they had not been assassinated. Change partners and share your thoughts and findings.

- Tsar Nicholas II (Russia, 1918)
- Mohandas Gandhi (India, 1948)
- John F Kennedy (USA, 1963)
- Martin Luther King Jr. (USA, 1968)
- John Lennon (USA, 1980)
- Anwar Sadat (Egypt, 1981)
- Yitzhak Rabin (Israel, 1995)
- Benazir Bhutto (Pakistan, 2007)

4. SHORT-TERM FUTURE: With your partner(s), discuss the possible short-term political futures of these countries. How could your scenarios change the world?

- The USA
- Pakistan
- China
- Palestine / Israel
- Burma
- Serbia / Kosovo
- North Korea
- Iran
- your country
- other _____

5. GRIEF: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'grief'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. QUICK ROLE PLAY: Student A **strongly** believes that democracy and stability will come to Pakistan; Student B believes extremism and instability will continue. Change partners again and talk about your roles and conversations.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. An opposition leader's assassination has brought chaos to Pakistan. | T / F |
| b. The leader was buried in a coffin draped with the national flag. | T / F |
| c. Her husband was too grief-stricken to go to the funeral. | T / F |
| d. Looting and rioting have been commonplace since the killing. | T / F |
| e. An election slated for January 8 th has been postponed. | T / F |
| f. Very few people have linked Al Qaeda with the assassination. | T / F |
| g. Benazir Bhutto's party was quick to find a replacement leader. | T / F |
| h. Ms Bhutto was trying to become prime minister for a third time. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. former | a. killed |
| 2. laid to rest | b. covered |
| 3. wailed | c. rule |
| 4. slain | d. fight |
| 5. plunged | e. void |
| 6. vacuum | f. buried |
| 7. cloaked | g. cried |
| 8. intent on | h. immersed |
| 9. contest | i. ex |
| 10. lead | j. determined to |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Violence has | a. grief |
| 2. The former prime minister was laid to | b. democracy to Pakistan |
| 3. They wailed and beat their heads in | c. of a suicide bomber |
| 4. he sat in the car carrying his slain | d. and stability |
| 5. Her death on Thursday at the hands | e. wife's body |
| 6. leaves Pakistan in a state | f. for a third time |
| 7. the elections scheduled for January the 8th | g. rest next to her father |
| 8. intent on derailing attempts to bring | h. of political vacuum |
| 9. Bhutto had hoped to restore democracy | i. spread across Pakistan |
| 10. She was trying to lead her country | j. could be put off |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Violence has _____ across Pakistan as assassinated Benazir Bhutto was buried on Friday. The former prime minister was _____ to rest next to her father in the family mausoleum in her _____ Sindh province. Tens of thousands of mourners assembled to see their beloved leader's coffin, _____ in political party colours. They wailed and beat their heads in _____ as the funeral procession passed by. Her husband Asif Ali Zardari wept as he sat in the car carrying his _____ wife's body. Pakistan's government has declared three days of mourning for the assassinated opposition leader, while the party she headed, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has called for 40 days. Her death on Thursday at the _____ of a suicide bomber at an election rally in Rawalpindi has _____ Pakistan into crisis. Riots have broken out all over the country with rioters attacking police, burning tires and looting stores.

*native**slain**grief**plunged**draped**hands**spread**laid*

The death of 54-year-old Bhutto leaves Pakistan in a state of political _____, with the short-term future of the country _____ in uncertainty. There are fears the elections scheduled for January the 8th could be put off. This would please those responsible for her death, who seem _____ on derailing attempts to bring democracy to Pakistan. Many believe Al Qaeda, who opposed Bhutto's liberal _____, was behind the suicide attack. The international community are very keen to see the elections take place on time to _____ further chaos in the country. Representatives of Bhutto's PPP party have _____ to say if they will contest the election and who would represent it. Bhutto had hoped to _____ democracy and stability to Pakistan and free it from extremism. In 1988, aged just 35, she became the Muslim world's first democratically elected female prime minister. She was trying to _____ her country for a third time.

*avoid**views**yet**cloaked**restore**lead**vacuum**intent*

LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.

Violence _____ Pakistan as assassinated Benazir Bhutto was buried on Friday. The former prime minister _____ to her father in the family mausoleum in her native Sindh province. Tens of thousands of mourners assembled _____ leader's coffin, draped in political party colours. They wailed and beat _____ as the funeral procession passed by. Her husband Asif Ali Zardari wept as he sat in the car carrying his slain wife's body. Pakistan's government has declared three days _____ assassinated opposition leader, while the party she headed, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has called for 40 days. Her death on Thursday _____ suicide bomber at an election rally in Rawalpindi has plunged Pakistan into crisis. Riots have broken _____ country with rioters attacking police, burning tires and looting stores.

The death of 54-year-old Bhutto leaves Pakistan _____ political vacuum, with the short-term future of the country _____. There are fears the elections scheduled for January the 8th _____. This would please those responsible for her death, who seem intent on derailing attempts to bring democracy to Pakistan. Many believe Al Qaeda, who opposed Bhutto's _____ behind the suicide attack. The international community are very keen to see the elections take place on time _____ in the country. Representatives of Bhutto's PPP party _____ they will contest the election and who would represent it. Bhutto had hoped to restore democracy and stability to Pakistan and free it from extremism. In 1988, aged just 35, she became the Muslim world's first democratically elected female prime minister. She _____ country for a third time.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'election' and 'rally'.

<p>election</p>	<p>rally</p>
------------------------	---------------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • former • native • grief • declared • hands • burning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vacuum • fears • intent • keen • contest • lead
---	--

STUDENT PAKISTAN SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about Pakistan in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
 - b) When did you first hear this news and how did you feel?
 - c) What do you know about Benazir Bhutto?
 - d) What do you think of politics in Pakistan?
 - e) Does the political situation in Pakistan affect you?
 - f) Would you ever wail in grief at the death of a world leader?
 - g) Who do you think might have been responsible for the assassination?
 - h) Do you think Ms Bhutto could have brought positive change to Pakistan?
 - i) Do you think Ms Bhutto was a brave woman?
-

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Has your country ever been in a state of political vacuum?
- c) What happens in a state of political vacuum?
- d) What do you think the year 2008 has in store for Pakistan?
- e) Why do you think Ms Bhutto was assassinated?
- f) What do you think Al Qaeda dislikes about Ms Bhutto?
- g) What will it take to bring democracy, stability and peace to Pakistan?
- h) What questions would you have liked to ask Ms Bhutto?
- i) Did you like this discussion?

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

Violence has spread across Pakistan as assassinated Benazir Bhutto was buried on Friday. The former prime minister was laid to (1) _____ next to her father in the family mausoleum in her (2) _____ Sindh province. Tens of thousands of mourners assembled to see their beloved leader's coffin, draped in political party colours. They wailed and beat their heads (3) _____ grief as the funeral procession passed by. Her husband Asif Ali Zardari wept as he sat in the car carrying his (4) _____ wife's body. Pakistan's government has declared three days of mourning for the assassinated opposition leader, while the party she headed, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has called (5) _____ 40 days. Her death on Thursday at the hands of a suicide bomber at an election rally in Rawalpindi has plunged Pakistan into crisis. Riots have broken (6) _____ all over the country with rioters attacking police, burning tires and looting stores.

The death of 54-year-old Bhutto leaves Pakistan in a state of political (7) _____, with the short-term future of the country cloaked in uncertainty. There are fears the elections scheduled for January the 8th could be put (8) _____. This would please those responsible for her death, who seem intent (9) _____ derailing attempts to bring democracy to Pakistan. Many believe Al Qaeda, who opposed Bhutto's liberal views, was behind the suicide attack. The international community are very keen to see the elections (10) _____ place on time to avoid further chaos in the country. Representatives of Bhutto's PPP party have yet to say if they will (11) _____ the election and who would represent it. Bhutto had hoped to restore democracy and stability to Pakistan and free it from extremism. In 1988, (12) _____ just 35, she became the Muslim world's first democratically elected female prime minister. She was trying to lead her country for a third time.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) rest | (b) peace | (c) buried | (d) ground |
| 2. | (a) national | (b) nation | (c) natives | (d) native |
| 3. | (a) on | (b) an | (c) in | (d) a |
| 4. | (a) slay | (b) slain | (c) slew | (d) slaying |
| 5. | (a) her | (b) on | (c) out | (d) for |
| 6. | (a) out | (b) off | (c) in | (d) up |
| 7. | (a) avoid | (b) Hoover | (c) vacuum | (d) suction |
| 8. | (a) away | (b) off | (c) down | (d) up |
| 9. | (a) or | (b) off | (c) of | (d) on |
| 10. | (a) make | (b) hold | (c) give | (d) take |
| 11. | (a) compete | (b) contest | (c) play | (d) run |
| 12. | (a) aged | (b) age | (c) old | (d) with |

WRITING:

Write about *Benazir Bhutto* for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Benazir Bhutto. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. POLITICIANS: Make a poster about Pakistan's politicians. Describe their views and how they want to shape their country. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. PAKISTAN: Write a magazine article about Pakistan. Include imaginary interviews with leaders and ordinary people.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down new words and expressions.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf. Ask him three questions about Pakistan. Give him three suggestions on what he should do to bring peace and stability to his country. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. T b. F c. F d. T e. F f. T g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. former | a. ex |
| 2. laid to rest | b. buried |
| 3. wailed | c. cried |
| 4. slain | d. killed |
| 5. plunged | e. immersed |
| 6. vacuum | f. void |
| 7. cloaked | g. covered |
| 8. intent on | h. determined to |
| 9. contest | i. fight |
| 10. lead | j. rule |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Violence has | a. spread across Pakistan |
| 2. The former prime minister was laid to | b. rest next to her father |
| 3. They wailed and beat their heads in | c. grief |
| 4. he sat in the car carrying his slain | d. wife's body |
| 5. Her death on Thursday at the hands | e. of a suicide bomber |
| 6. leaves Pakistan in a state | f. of political vacuum |
| 7. the elections scheduled for January the 8th | g. could be put off |
| 8. intent on derailing attempts to bring | h. democracy and stability |
| 9. Bhutto had hoped to restore democracy | i. to Pakistan |
| 10. She was trying to lead her country | j. for a third time |

GAP FILL:

Pakistan in turmoil as Bhutto is buried

Violence has **spread** across Pakistan as assassinated Benazir Bhutto was buried on Friday. The former prime minister was **laid** to rest next to her father in the family mausoleum in her **native** Sindh province. Tens of thousands of mourners assembled to see their beloved leader's coffin, **draped** in political party colours. They wailed and beat their heads in **grief** as the funeral procession passed by. Her husband Asif Ali Zardari wept as he sat in the car carrying his **slain** wife's body. Pakistan's government has declared three days of mourning for the assassinated opposition leader, while the party she headed, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has called for 40 days. Her death on Thursday at the **hands** of a suicide bomber at an election rally in Rawalpindi has **plunged** Pakistan into crisis. Riots have broken out all over the country with rioters attacking police, burning tires and looting stores.

The death of 54-year-old Bhutto leaves Pakistan in a state of political **vacuum**, with the short-term future of the country **cloaked** in uncertainty. There are fears the elections scheduled for January the 8th could be put off. This would please those responsible for her death, who seem **intent** on derailing attempts to bring democracy to Pakistan. Many believe Al Qaeda, who opposed Bhutto's liberal **views**, was behind the suicide attack. The international community are very keen to see the elections take place on time to **avoid** further chaos in the country. Representatives of Bhutto's PPP party have **yet** to say if they will contest the election and who would represent it. Bhutto had hoped to **restore** democracy and stability to Pakistan and free it from extremism. In 1988, aged just 35, she became the Muslim world's first democratically elected female prime minister. She was trying to **lead** her country for a third time.

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - a 2 - d 3 - c 4 - b 5 - d 6 - a 7 - c 8 - b 9 - c 10 - d 11 - b 12 - a