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PHILIPS

**Former Pak CJ
was wrongly
appointed****ISLAMABAD, Dec 23:** The Pakistan Supreme Court today formally struck down the 1994 appointment of chief justice Sajjad Ali Shah, three weeks after he was removed in a bitter row with the government, reports AFP.

A ten-judge bench of the top court unanimously declared invalid Shah's appointment by the government of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The court passed the verdict after detailed hearing of petitions challenging Shah's appointment on the grounds that he was promoted to the post in 1994 in violation of seniority rules.

The court also suspended all judgements handed down by Shah since Nov 26.

Loud bangFrom page 1
suspect that the pilot had missed the runway apparently in thick fog that blanketed the area Monday night. The cause of delay in the aircraft's departure from Dhaka was not known immediately.

When the aircraft was approaching the runway, probably the pilot had realised that he had overshot it. His last message was turning in bound.

In technical terms it meant that he was going to 'make another go' for the landing. There was no follow-up messages from the flight at around 10:36 pm when it disappeared from the radar and lost contact with the control tower at Osmany airport, highly placed sources told The Daily Star last night.

A Civil Aviation source said the flat landing raised a number of questions. It appeared that the aircraft had entered an airpocket, received sudden jolts before it touched down. If it was descending on the second turn after the last radio message, the aircraft would have struck nose down on the mud.

The aircraft, was damaged totally, a Civil Aviation official at Sylhet said. Small scraps of the damaged part of the aircraft were strewn around 200 square yards of the crash site. The four wheels of the plane were found by rescuers scattered about 50 to 100 yards away, when Iqbal Siddique visited the crash site.

BDR and police had been deployed to guard the wreckage.

**Int'l festival opens in city
Portray social realities
in films: Hasina**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the film makers to produce films depicting the realities of social and national life, reports UNB.

She was inaugurating the 5th international film festival at the Public Library auditorium in the city.

Till today, Hasina said, though a few good films have been produced in the country, but the reality is that the hopes and aspirations of the people as well as social realities have not been portrayed in most of the films.

The glory, dream and pathos of the nation for independence have not been depicted in the films, excepting a very few films on the great War of Liberation, she said.

The inaugural session presided over by Prof M Moniruzzaman was also addressed by two Indian film-makers —

Adur Gopalakrishnan and Buddhadev Das Gupta.

The Prime Minister said any art form, cinema in particular, cannot flourish without democracy. "So we have been working with utmost sincerity in flourishing the democratic culture and ensuring political stability."

Some 45 remarkable films of different countries, including Brazil, Denmark, China, England, Greece, Germany, India, Iran, Russia, Sweden, USA and host Bangladesh will be shown during the nine-day festival, organised by Rainbow Film Society.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain, A H Mofazzal Karim and Ahmed Mujtaba Jamal also spoke at the function.

Weird Beards**LONDON, Dec 23:** A family whose grandmother was born on the 11th of the 11th month, mother on the 10th of the 10th, father on the fourth of the fourth, and son on the sixth of the sixth, are celebrating the birth of a baby girl — at 12.12 pm on the 12th of the 12th month, reports AFP.

Several newspapers carried reports of the Beard family from Gosport on the south coast of England and their latest addition Emily.

Father David, 33, said: "My friends started calling me weird Beard. We're not having any more children after this."

N'ganj jailFrom page 1
tion IGP (Prison) Liaqat Ali Khan, went round different sections of the jail, talked to prisoners and officials, and recommended measures for overall improvement of its conditions, sources in the jail said.

Two other members of the team are Nazmul Ahsan Majumdar, a magistrate posted in Narayanganj and Dr Farhad, a physician nominated by the police headquarters.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner of Narayanganj Abdur Rahman who is also the jail super confirmed the "on-the-spot recommendations" by the team and said it is due to submit its report to the ministry within two weeks.

Extension of one of the cells by another floor will provide for accommodation of 250 prisoners, and ease the problem till a new building is constructed, he said.

The IGP also assured of additional budget to implement the proposals, he said. He hoped that steps would be taken shortly to implement the recommendations.

A Home Ministry notification, forming the investigation committee, had referred to a December 11 report in The Daily Star on the sub-human condition in the district jail, committee sources said. The IG (Prison) and the DIG (Prison) had also paid a surprise visit to the jail on the day the report was published.

A member in the committee confided to these correspondents that they found a sub-human condition in the jail, as narrated in The Daily Star report.

Three under-trial prisoners died at the district jail in 10 days from December 6.

Cox's Bazar clash

From page 1

Assistant Superintendent of Police Shajahan Chowdhury and Police Inspector Korban Ali were bullet-hit in the two-hour clashes near the city's Laidighi area during hartal called by the local unit of Jamaat.

The day-long hartal was called demanding re-election at three centres in Jhlongia union. Jamaat claimed that the union parishad elections held on December 18 were manipulated by the AL-backed candidate who won the election.

After the clashes, the district administration imposed Section 144 in the town and in Jhlongia Union. Elections at two unions in Maheshkhali and three unions in Ukha thana, scheduled for today, were postponed following the clashes.

Police arrested 10 persons during the clashes. Additional police forces and BDR were deployed at all strategic points in the city.

Later, at around 2 pm, the agitating ICS activists destroyed a wooden bridge on the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway, snapping road communication between the two districts.

According to witnesses, at around 9:30 am, supporters of the Jamaat candidate and the AL-backed candidate clashed near the Laidighi in the city. Police dispersed them using tear gas shells.

At around 10 am, when a militant procession of Jamaat tried to move towards the supporters of the AL-backed candidate, police opened fire. The Jamaat activists also fired shots and blasted cocktails, witnesses said. Both the sides traded about 100 shots.

Khagrachhari

From page 1

tion with one Nazrul Islam who was accompanying the woman. However, it was settled following an intervention of a local student leader.

But at around 10:30 pm, police tried to arrest the mediator Sukumar Borua. As the traders of the bazar protested it, police resorted to baton charge and fired rubber bullets on them, leaving 11 persons injured.

Protesting the incident, businessmen of the Panchhari Bazar observed a half-day shutdown and obstructed traffic movements today.

The injured were identified as Dulal, Shahin, Mirul, Abul Kasem, Abdul Mannan, Sumati Ranjan Tripura, Mohammad Ali and Zakir Hossain.

Contract with Occidental

From page 1

also costly, resulting in an enhancement of its budget by over four times."

Its negligence in operation had resulted in the Magurchhara explosion, the source said. "It has been found by the government's Investigation Committee that Occidental's communication system at the Magurchhara well site was poor and the well design was weak," the source added.

Beside it handled radio-active matters used for exploration carelessly, the source said. Some 18 isotopes were lost in the Magurchhara explosion. These were later recovered intact in a container but Occidental did not come up with any clear cut explanation about the possibility of more isotopes being lost.

Occidental has also brought in two partners in these blocks

and thus it has minimised its own financial risk. The World Bank's private investment wing, IFC, owns 15 per cent of the two blocks and US company UNOCAL 42.5 per cent.

But the financial risk of Bangladesh government, which is contractually 65 per cent owner of the block, remains high as the government itself did not press for compensation for damages caused by the Magurchhara incident.

Occidental has taken a move to get approved an extra-expenditure of 36 million US dollars, spent in remedial measures for the blow out, as a "re-coverable" cost. This would compel the government to pay 65 per cent cost of the remedial measures for the Magurchhara disaster.

In executing the remedial measures for Magurchhara, Oc-

cidental had been very slow in controlling the fire and restoring the rail and road links. Time and again, it had opened and closed the rail-road links between Magurchhara and other districts of Sylhet division.

The probe committee report remains "shelved and completely hidden from almost all levels of the government," the sources said.

Since the IFC of the World Bank is closely linked with Occidental's operation and one of the top executives of the company is a top American politician, it is likely that the government would face pressure in automatically terminating the PSC for blocks 13 and 14.

If in any manner, this PSC is extended, this would be a second disaster like Magurchhara for Bangladesh," observed a source.

**19th
BRANCH**

OPENS TODAY

(Wednesday 24th December 1997)

at

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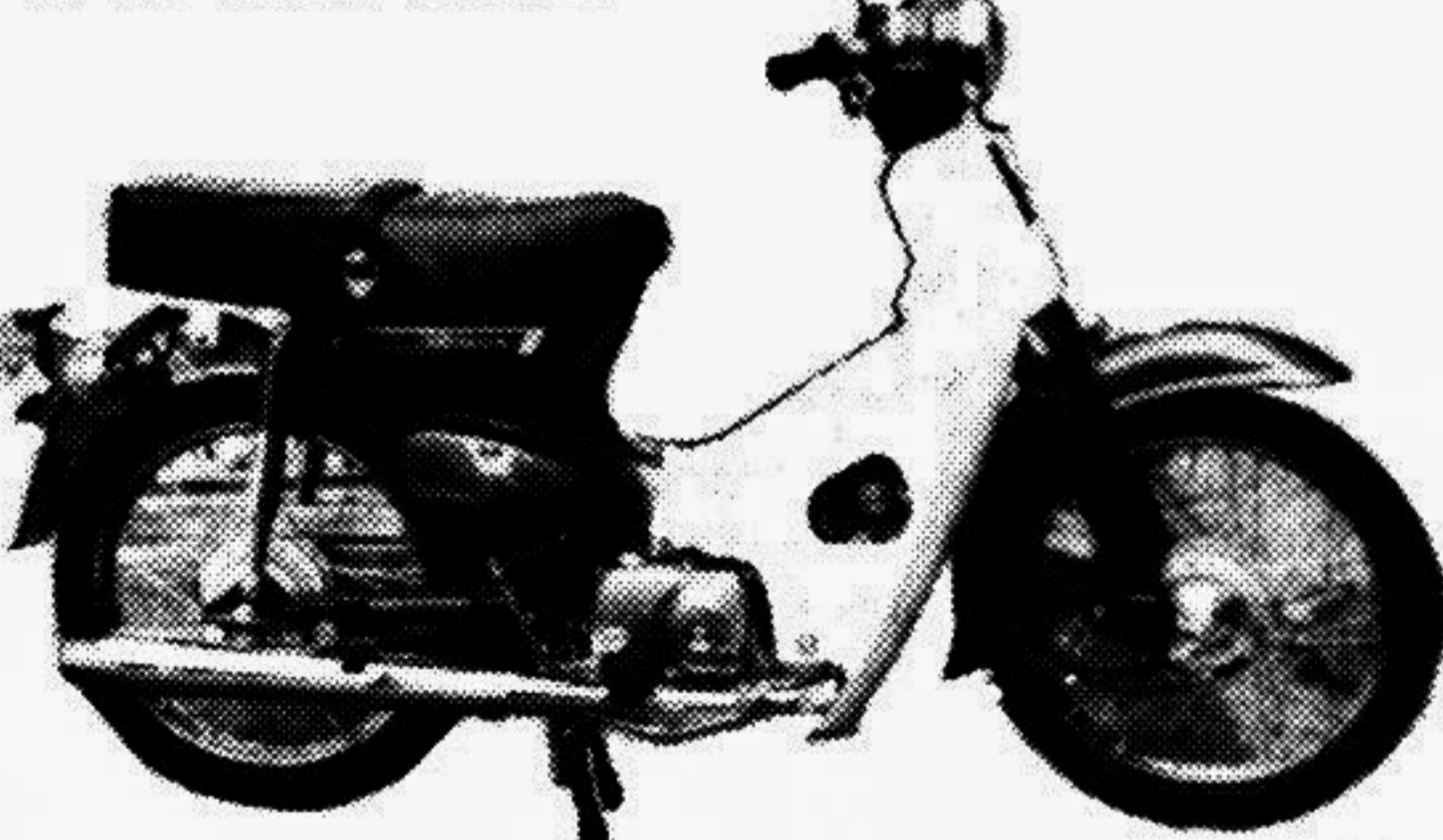
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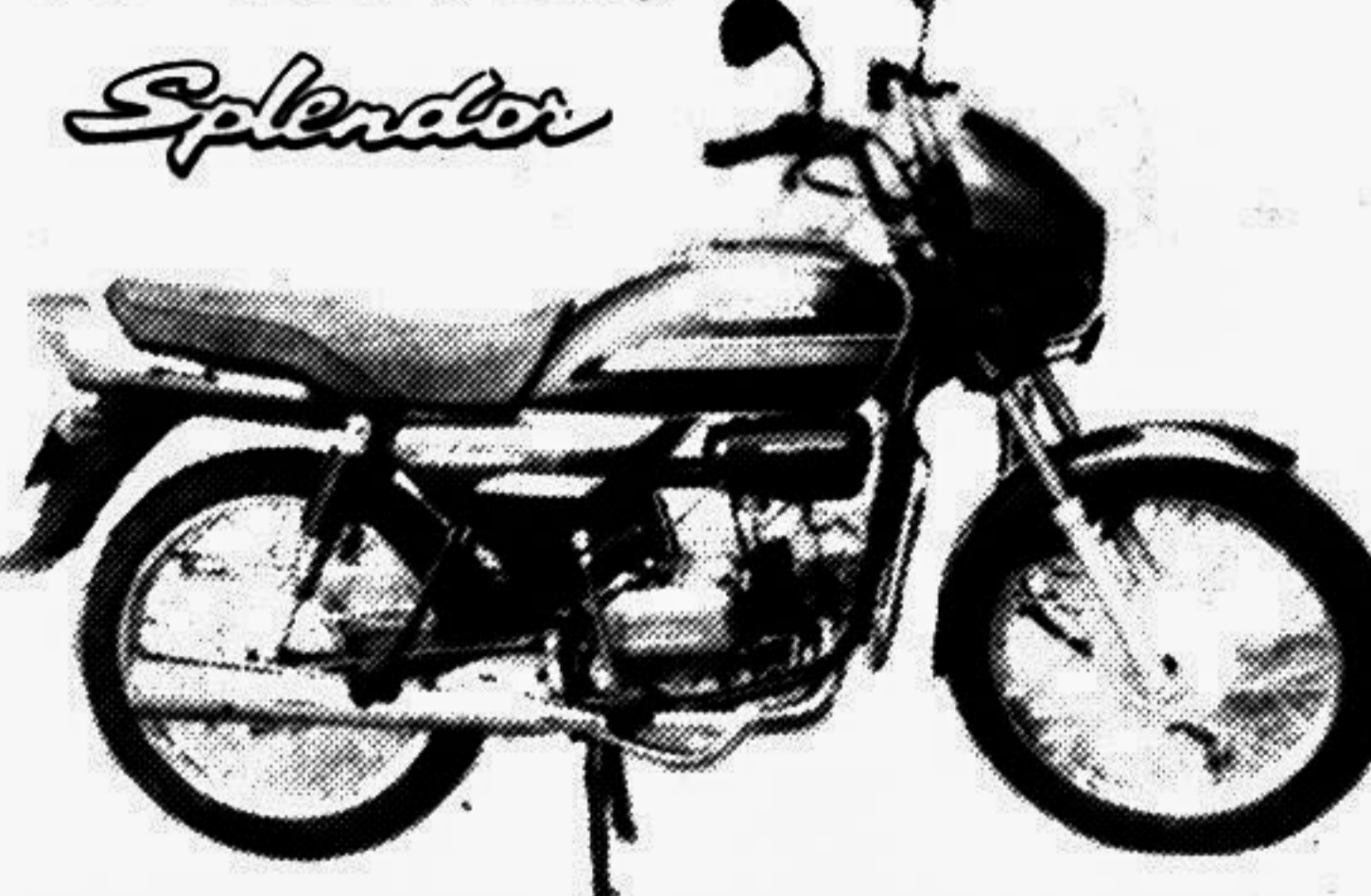
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(হোন্ডা জাপানের একমাত্র প্রতিনিধিত্বকারী)

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R.I.T.A

Editor: Mahfuz Anam