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**PHILIPS**

## Sharif's 'horrific' days in prison

KARACHI, Nov 27: From the prime minister's palatial marble residence to a dingy and dark prison cell, Pakistan's deposed premier is demanding better conditions from his jailers, defense lawyers said today, reports AP.

Sharif's lawyers will appear in court on Monday demanding better living conditions for their client — the man the army wrenched from power on Oct 12 in a bloodless coup. Sharif has been in custody since then accused by the military of plotting to kill the army chief by allegedly refusing to allow the aircraft returning him to Pakistan to land in southern Karachi.

The same day the army took control of Pakistan.

"He is a suspect, but is being treated like a condemned prisoner," Iqbal Raad, a member of Sharif's legal team, told The Associated Press. "His room is so small that he has to fold his cot to offer prayers. It is infested with mosquitoes. It doesn't even have an attached toilet."

The Malir prison where Sharif, who took power in Pakistan with a two-thirds majority in 1997 is being held, is overcrowded like most jails in Pakistan.

The high walled compound on the outskirts of this southern port city was built to accommodate 680 prisoners. Today it houses 2,590 prisoners, said a prison official who asked not to be identified.

The inmate population is a mix of maximum security convicts, imprisoned for multiple murders are terrorism, to min-

imum security petty thieves. During the court appearance Sharif told reporters conditions in prison were horrific.

"The jail authorities keep the lights on even during the night so that I can't sleep," he said. "They also turn on the fan throughout the night but refuse to give me a blanket."

Sharif said he is allowed outside his cell for 40 minutes each day to exercise.

His food is passed to him from beneath the iron cell door.

In Pakistan, there are different classifications of prisoners, explained Raad. The criteria that determines a prisoner's classification is education, political position and economic status.

Sharif's lawyers say they will argue Monday that he is not receiving the level of treatment guaranteed him under prison rules and is being denied certain privileges those rules allow him. The privileges include food brought by relatives, clothes, television set, radio and newspaper.

"As a former prime minister and an educated man he is entitled to better facilities, including newspapers," said Raad.

But so far he has been denied even newspapers.

During Friday's court appearance Sharif was seen folding a newspaper into small pieces and stuffing the pieces inside his jacket to take back to jail with him.

A former Cabinet minister and close friend of Sharif's Sheikh Rashid, said he was "Shaken by the way Nawaz Sharif is being treated."

## Garbage piled up on busy roads at Ctg

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Nov 27: Garbage collection is yet to be streamlined in the port city despite launching of a 'crash programme' by the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) two weeks ago.

Garbage remains piled up at different points in the city, causing health hazard.

In some areas, garbage is piled up even on busy roads. These include the road in front of Rezauddin Bazar, Askardighi Crossing, Station Road, Katakaphar Lane and the roads in Ghatforhadbeg and Baduratala areas.

Residents alleged that garbage collection is very slow, resulting in piling up.

When contacted, CCC conservancy officials said the crash programme would continue for some more days.

Conservancy workers are now clearing over 500 tons of garbage a day. Some private trucks were also hired for collection of garbage, they said.

They pointed out the 'shortage' of garbage trucks as some of those were damaged during hartals.

The CCC has taken up a plan

### Old man

From page 1

killing of Polish could not be known immediately.

Polash used to go Dhampara in Barina Nagar to play basketball with his friends. A number of friends of Polash took him inside a room when he went to play at Dhampara in the afternoon on November 17, before inflicting multiple stab injuries on him, sources said.

His friends stabbed him on both his hands and the right leg with a machete. Polash was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) from where he was shifted to Orthopaedic Hospital. He died there at about 5 pm on Friday last, sources added.

The body was handed over to the family of the victim after autopsy at the DMCH morgue.

## ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স ইনস্টিটিউশন, বাংলাদেশ

সদর দফতর, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০

ফোন: ৯৫৫৯৪৮৫, ৯৫৬৬৩০৬

পূর্ব কলকাতায় আল্ফার ক্যাপার পুরকোশল বিভাগের উদ্যোগে **Water Supply & Waste Management** শীর্ষক প্রশিক্ষণ কোর্স দিয়ে ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং স্টাফ কলেজের কার্যক্রম শুরু করা হয়েছে। আগামী ৩০শে নভেম্বর, ১৯৯৯ বিকাল ৩-৩০ মিনিটে ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং স্টাফ কলেজ, বাউসিয়া, মুন্সিগঞ্জে এই কোর্সের সনদ বিতরণী অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত থাকতে ১৯৯৬ সালের কেমারটেকার সরকারের মাননীয় উপদেষ্টা এবং ইনস্টিটিউশনের প্রাক্তন প্রেসিডেন্ট ডঃ প্রকৌশলী জামিলুর রেজা চৌধুরী সদয় সম্মতি দিয়েছেন।

সনদ বিতরণী অনুষ্ঠানে সকল প্রকৌশলী আমন্ত্রিত।

প্রকৌশলী আ.ন.হ. আখতার হোসেন  
সম্মানীয় সাধারণ সম্পাদক

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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## Power theft PDB files case against Ershad Shikdar

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Nov 27: Sales and Distribution Department of PDB, Khulna has filed a case against Ershad Shikdar for alleged stealing of electricity worth Tk 47 lakh.

Shikdar's bodyguard Noor-e-Alam gave statement under 164 on August 30 last on how electricity bills were forged by a group of metre readers of PDB.

Later, a senior official of PDB examined metres of the Ice Factory at Skid Ghat and detected the fraud. A report was also sent to the head office of PDB describing how electricity was stolen and bills were forged.

Four officials of the department concerned of the PDB were officially charged for connivance. But no departmental action has yet been taken, said a source in the KMP.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Azad Chowdhury, DC (HQ) and one of the alleged beneficiaries of Ershad Shikdar reportedly threatened Noor-e-Alam not to 'exceed the limit'.

He went to Noor-e-Alam today at Khalishpur thana and asked him not to give any further statement against Ershad Shikdar and others.

Noor-e-Alam named DC Azad of KMP as one of the beneficiaries, said a KMP source.

He added that Shikdar was

identifying over-population as the main cause of poverty, he said poverty alleviation should be given top priority and family planning programme needs to be implemented with all vigour.

Quoting official statistics he said population growth came down to 1.6 per cent from 3.1 per cent in 15 years, but the rate is still very high compared to the country's resources.

He underscored the need for intensifying all efforts to increase food production to overcome the shortage, estimated at 20 lakh tons, the country faces in a normal year of harvest.

He, however, said industrial development remains only option in the face of declining soil fertility.

Begum Matta Chowdhury said there is no alternative to increase food production to feed 20 lakh additional mouths born every year.

Annual food shortage ranges from 18 lakh to 21 lakh tons despite increase of food production from 1.95 crore tons three years ago to 2.15 crore tons last year, she said.

She expressed concern over the siltation of river beds that leads to frequent flooding and was critical of donors for discouraging river dredging on the plea of high cost involved.

"Floods wash away all our progress and achievements, which are no less costly than the expenses we need for dredging," the minister said.

"We'll fix up our priorities on our own. If financial assistance is not available, we'll go ahead with whatever resources we've. What we should do and not do must not be decided by others," she asserted.

Education Minister ASHK Sadique said Bangladesh has no option but to be self-reliant economically and socially. He regretted country's dependence on others in all the fields — economy, intellectual property and technology.

FBCCI president Abdul Awal Minto sought intervention of the President to develop a friendly relationship between the ruling and opposition parties.

He said the existing unstable political situation is creating a complex situation in all spheres of life. Some specific political programmes are leaving a far-reaching impact on public life.

In his key-note speech SID governing council member Dr QK Ahmud said the country's poverty ratio remains high at about 48 per cent while a quarter is afflicted with hardcore poverty.

Economic growth has also not accelerated and social indicators generally reflect low performance. Environmental degradation is widespread.

"Governance remains characterised by corruption and inefficiency. Lack of transparency and bureaucratic hindrances are serious stumbling blocks," Dr Ahmad said.

The seminar focussed on education an employment, food security, women in politics and political process to work out a strategy befitting the needs for the 21st century.

The meeting will be held at the Council Room of Administrative Building at 4:00 pm. Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Bayes will preside over the meeting.

Letters have been issued to the syndicate members yesterday asking them to attend the meeting.

Meanwhile, a section of students under the banner of 'Admission Fee Hike Resistance Committee' (AFHRC) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the acting VC demanding immediate re-opening of the university and withdrawal of enhanced admission fees.

Ganotantik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a conglomerate of left-leaning students' organisations, also submitted a memorandum to the acting VC yesterday to press their four-point demand.

The Jamaat leader said: 'We think this statement will not affect the current movement and unity of the opposition alliance.'

"We will also discuss the matter in today's regular meeting of the Liaison Committee," Matin said.

When contacted, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said his party would give its reaction today.

IOJ leader ARM Abdul Matin said Ershad told him over phone that he was unaware of her statement. "Roushan will definitely withdraw it today", Ershad was quoted to have told Matin.

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President Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing a national seminar on 'Bangladesh in the 21st Century Socio-economic Perspectives' in the city yesterday. —PID photo

## Political stability

From page 1

said, "Inefficient management is blamed for low productivity, but how can efficient management be developed if labour leaders decide who should be appointed General Manager or who should be transferred?"

The President stressed the need for proper education and training particularly in modern science and technology for human resource development and transforming the huge population into asset.

Identifying over-population as the main cause of poverty, he said poverty alleviation should be given top priority and family planning programme needs to be implemented with all vigour.

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## NSI astt director killed in road accident

By Staff Correspondent

An assistant director of the National Security Intelligence (NSI) was killed when a mini bus and a maxi collided at Staff Road in city's Banani area yesterday afternoon, police said.

The dead was identified as Abdul Hye, 42, an assistant director of the NSI, police said. Hye died on the spot.

The accident occurred when the mini bus and maxi collided at Staff Road at about 5:15 pm. Hye was a passenger of the maxi, police said.

## Italian national killed in road accident in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 27: An Italian national was killed in a road accident in Tigerpass area in the city this morning, police said.

He was identified as Tedesco Sedestiano, 65.

Police said Tedesco died on the spot when a speeding bus hit his motorbike from behind.

Tedesco was staying at a church at Jamalkhan for the last two years. His body will be sent back to Italy.

Police seized the bus but its driver managed to flee.

## JU Syndicate to hold meeting tomorrow

By JU Correspondent

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities have called an emergency meeting of the university syndicate tomorrow to discuss re-opening of the university.

The meeting will be held at the Council Room of Administrative Building at 4:00 pm. Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Bayes will preside over the meeting.

Letters have been issued to the syndicate members yesterday asking them to attend the meeting.

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## Seminar on HR concludes Political stability, separation of judiciary stressed

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 27: The two-day national seminar on human rights ended here today calling for political stability and separation of judiciary to protect human rights in the country, reports BSS.

The seminar attended by eminent jurists, legal experts, diplomats and human rights activists also said that all the "unconstitutional provisions", including the Special Powers Act, should be repealed and social balance be ensured in order to and the growing violence and terrorism, the main root of human rights violation in society.

It suggested that the Supreme Court increase and activate its power and exercise greater control over sub-ordinate judiciary. "This should be done to restore peoples' confidence in judiciary on an urgent basis."

Bangladesh Bar Council in cooperation with Cox's Bazar Bar Association organised the seminar. Justice Latifur Rahman, a senior judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court attended as the chief guest.

Justice Badrul Huq, Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, Barrister Amirul Islam, Dutch Ambassador to Bangladesh Dick Den CB Haas, Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Nicholas H R Etheridge and Advocate Abdus Salam Talukder, among others, spoke in the seminar.

The seminar identified lack of social awareness and conscious about the fundamental rights