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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, terrorism, to minor

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 A'am

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 Reazuddin Bazar, Askardighi Crossing, Station Road, Kata-pahar Lane and the roads in Ghatforhabeg and Badurtala 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 har-

The CCC has taken up a plan

Old mai

From page 1
killing of Polash could not be known immediately.

Polash used to go Dhampara in Bania 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 in 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.

ইঞ্জিনিয়ার ইনসিটিউশন, বাংলাদেশ

সদর দপ্তর, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০

ফোন: ১৫৫৯৪৮৫, ১৫৬৬০৩৬

পরম কর্মান্বয় আরাহাম কুপার প্রকৌশল বিভাগের উদ্যোগে Water Supply & Waste Management শৈক্ষক প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র দিয়ে ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং স্টাফ কলেজের কার্যক্রম আর কক্ষ কর্মসূলী অন্তর্ভুক্ত করা হচ্ছে। আগস্টী ৩০শে নভেম্বর, ১৯৯৯ রিকাল ৩-৩০ মিনিটে ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং স্টাফ কলেজ, বাটনিয়া, মুন্সুর এই কোর্সের সনদ বিতরণী অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অভিযোগ হিসেবে উপর্যুক্ত ধারকে ১৯৯৬ সালের কেয়ারটেকের সরকারের মাননীয় উপস্থিতি এবং ইনসিটিউশনের প্রাইভেট তত্ত্বাবধানী জামিনুর রেজা চৌধুরী সদর সম্মতি দিয়েছে।

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সম্মতি সাধারণ সম্পদক

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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.

BJP suspends Kalyan Singh

NEW DELHI, Nov 27: India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) suspended a key regional leader, Kalyan Singh, today for what it called anti-party activities, party president Kushabhai Thakre said, reports Reuter.

We decided to suspend him (Kalyan Singh) from the primary membership of the party, Thakre told reporters.

Earlier this month BJP asked Kalyan Singh to step down as Chief Minister of the politically crucial northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

Singh was replaced by Ram Prakash Gupta after the party put up a poor show in the recent general elections.

Uttar Pradesh is a key state for the ruling party because it accounts for the largest number of seats in the 545-member lower house of parliament.

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 Matia 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.

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.

In his key-note speech SID governing council member Dr QK Ahmad 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.

BCCCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo 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 Ahmad 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.

"Floods wash away all our

and increase profit to face the tough challenges.

The prime minister hoped Bank Asia would remain free from default loans by taking precautionary measures from the very beginning of its operation.

She also asked the new bank to expand its activities in the rural areas for the benefit of common people.

Hasina said ensuring macro economic stability is the main target of the government. Increase of investment through macro economic stability will ensure economic growth and its sustainability.

So, the government is continuing its efforts to bring back discipline in the banking sector and ensure transparency and accountability in all financial institutions, she said.

Due to the steps taken by the government, a positive impact of the banking sector is being reflected on the open market policy, she said and asked the private banks to expand their activities.

The prime minister said the government has given special emphasis on the growth and development of the private sector. Due to open competition, the quality of service and skill will increase more and more, she hoped.

Meanwhile, the newly elected commissioners had a press conference on Friday and pressed their demand.

Tehran jails

From page 1

daily newspaper Khorabd was banned on the latter charge.

In addition, he was banned from journalism for five years for libel and publishing lies, and the fine was levied for agitation against the Islamic system.

The sentence, issued after a six-day landmark trial that touched on the most sensitive issues in the Islamic republic, deals a heavy blow to the reformist movement, which had looked to Nouri to lead it in next February's parliamentary polls.

The court was illegal, so the verdict is not acceptable, close aide Faribah Davoudi told reporters outside the courtroom.

"Mr Nouri has said several times he does not recognise the court or its verdict. We expected even worse, because an entity which is illegal cannot have legal verdicts," she said.

Nouri argued repeatedly that the clerical courts, which are not covered in the constitution, are illegal and designed to bar free expression and limit debate.

However, the court's defenders say Iran's supreme clerical leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has used his powers to authorise the courts, superseding the constitution.

"We are disappointed, of course," Treasurer Bill English told TV1. "National has been around a long time, we will take our medicine. What I want

Bangladesh in the 21st Century Socio-Economic Perspectives
Chief Guest: Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed
SID
Society for International Development
Nov 27, November 1999, Dhaka, Bangladesh



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?"

"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 should we do and not do must not be decided by others," he 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.

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

The President stressed the need for proper education and training particularly in modern science and technology for human resource development and transforming the