

FedEx
Federal Express

 Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee Of Federal Express Corporation
Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

CHITTAGONG

 Hotel Hawaii Building
39, Agrabad C.A., Chittagong
Tel # 712127 Fax# 710106

CEPZ

 Ctg. Export Processing Zone
Old Admin Building
Halishahar, Chittagong
Tel # 740108 Fax# 710106

KHULNA

 K.D.A Building
Khan A. Sabur Road, Khulna
Tel # 725008 Fax# 731932

Whirlpool
Home Appliances USA

 Instalment
facility
available

TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS LTD.
Authorized Distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA
Dhaka: 8115307-10 CTG: 716953, 72578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6213


India's power minister dies of blood cancer

NEW DELHI, Aug 23: India's Power Minister Rangarajan Kumaramangalam died today of blood cancer after lying in coma for 10 days. He was 48, reports AP.

"Kumaramangalam expired at 0440 hrs Wednesday," said a bulletin issued by the government-run All India Institute of Medical Sciences where he was hospitalised on August 12.

Son of a veteran communist leader, Mohan Kumaramangalam, he pursued economic reforms, especially privatisation of the power sector, as a member of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's government.

He joined Vajpayee's right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party in 1998, quitting the Congress party, led by Sonia Gandhi, where he saw no future for himself.

"The cruel hand of death has snatched away from our midst a young, dynamic national leader," said Prime Minister Vajpayee in a condoling message to Kumaramangalam's death.

Last week, RK Sarma, who led a team of AIIMS doctors, said that Kumaramangalam was suffering from "myeloid leukemia with fulminant sepsis." Myeloid leukemia is a rare form of blood cancer.

Kumaramangalam was first hospitalised in New Delhi in April after suffering from fever for more than two months. But doctors failed to pin down the cause of his fever.

The minister resumed his duties in Parliament, but he was hospitalised again on August 12 when his condition worsened. He was put on life support systems.

Kumaramangalam is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter.

Mondal murder

Shahid's accomplice Bachchu remanded

By Staff Correspondent

Bachchu, an accomplice of ward commissioner Saidur Rahman Shahid, arrested in connection with Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal murder, was placed on three days' remand yesterday, police said.

Police till yesterday, however, could not trace Asad, who was driving the motorbike on which Mondal was going to the court on Sunday when the killing took place.

Sutrapur Police produced Bachchu in the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at about 4 pm yesterday. The court granted him three-day remand against the police prayer for a week.

In their prayer submitted before the magistrate, police said the preliminary investigation revealed that Bachchu planned Mondal's killing.

Bachchu was not produced in the courtroom when the remand prayer was moved. He was in the court hajat.

Boral murder

Babul confesses his involvement, another arrested

BAGERHAT, Aug 23: Saifur Rahman alias Babul, an accused Awami League leader, yesterday confessed his involvement in a first class train murder before a court here, reports BSS.

Yesterday arrested another accused, Askar, from a train station near Boral, a court here, reports BSS.

Babul classed as a "dangerous criminal" and was kept in a special cell.

A meeting of the 17-party Pakistan Awami Ittehad (PAI) also rejected military ruler General Pervez Musharraf's plans to create party-less local councils by mid-2001 in what he calls his "devolution of power" plan.

Alliance leader Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan said after the meeting the PAI would soon file a petition before a court to challenge the August 9 decree, which bars people convicted for offences involving moral turpitude or under an Anti-Terrorism Act from holding an office in a political party.

Legal sources say the decree, which amends an existing Political Parties Act, would disqualify self-exiled Bhutto and jailed Sharif from leading what are Pakistan's largest mainstream parties because of their convictions by special courts.

Nasrullah Khan said it was the job of political parties to decide who should lead them, not a military ruler.

Cong removes Ghani Khan as West Bengal chief

Pranab takes over at 'most difficult' time of party

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Aug 23: In a desperate bid to stem the decline of Congress' political fortunes in West Bengal, party supreme Sonia Gandhi has removed A B A Ghani Khan Choudhury as the chief of the party's unit in the state and appointed senior Congress leader and loyalist Pranab Kumar Mukherjee as his successor.

The removal of Khan Choudhury, a member of lower house of Parliament from Malda, culminates months of running feud between him and the Congress high command on the issue of firming up an alliance with Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress to counter West Bengal's ruling Left Front in fresh state assembly elections scheduled for March next year. The high command has repeatedly spurned Khan Choudhury's proposal for a "Mahajot" (grand alliance) with Trinamool Congress.

The Congress central leadership has also been concerned over the steady erosion in the party's base in West Bengal over the years and the exodus from its rank and file to Trinamool Congress. Mamata Banerjee formed in 1998. Recently, Congress performed poorly in elections to the prestigious Calcutta Municipal Corporation, where Trinamool seized power, toppling ruling Left Front, as well as in polls to some other

civic bodies in the state.

Secondly, Khan Choudhury has been at loggerheads with Congress' national General Secretary Ms Prabha Rau who is in charge of the party affairs in West Bengal. After the party high command put in a lot of efforts to persuade Khan Choudhury to abandon the idea of "Mahajot" with Trinamool, the veteran Congressman opened up another front with Ms Rau, refusing to accept her dictates especially concerning appointment of chiefs of different front wings of the party's state unit. Recently, Ms Rau had called a meeting to sort out party affairs in West Bengal which Khan Choudhury refused to attend, bringing to the fore simmering tension between him and the party high command.

Pranab Mukherjee, 68, takes over as West Bengal Congress President at a time when the party is ridden by deep factionalism and the morale of the party rank and file is low following successive setbacks in general elections in 1998 and 1999 as also in civic bodies polls. Mukherjee himself admitted it when he told reporters in Calcutta yesterday that he takes over at the "most difficult" time the party faces in the state.

Recognising the onerous task facing him in overcoming

groupism in the party and Congress' waning image as a credible opposition to Left Front, Mukherjee, according to party sources, was reluctant to take up his new assignment that would see him back in the centre-stage of West Bengal politics after a decade and a half.

Political observers are keeping their fingers crossed about Mukherjee's ability to steer the Congress at the present juncture, given the fact that he has hardly any following in the party's rank and file in West Bengal. He never fought elections to Lok Sabha from West Bengal and has always been a member of Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Indian parliament. His election to the upper house last year was possible only because of support by Left Front which has overwhelming majority in West Bengal state assembly. Rajya Sabha members are elected by an electoral college consisting of members of state legislative assemblies. Congress in West Bengal assembly does not even have the strength to elect a single Rajya Sabha member.

Besides, Mukherjee may not be able to give as much time as needed to concentrate on revival of the party in West Bengal, given his importance to Sonia Gandhi as an adviser on almost every key issue facing the party at the national level.

Increase production, export of fish: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for increasing fish production in the country as well as its export by maintaining international standard, reports BSS.

She also directed the authorities to provide opportunities to the genuine fishermen for deriving the benefits from incentives offered by her government for boosting fish production.

"We will have to take steps so that the real fishermen can be benefited and get the chance of fishing in all water bodies" she said while presiding over the 2 National Committee meeting on Fisheries and Shrimp at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday morning.

Mentioning about the already achieved food autarky, she said "now we have to achieve self-sufficiency in fish production." She also suggested steps for value addition in fish products and for increasing the country's income from their export.

The meeting discussed the problems and prospects of the fisheries sector and shrimp production and took some decisions for increasing fish production including declaring all water bodies as the primary fish breeding grounds.

The meeting was told that Bangladesh has made a record earning of Taka 1811.56 crore from exports of fish, fish products and shrimp during the fiscal 1999-2000.

During the fiscal 1999-2000 the country has exported 39,391 metric tons of shrimp and fish making records in fish sector export. In 1998-1999, the volume of export was 27,531 metric tons and export earning in this sector was Taka 1379.38 crore.

It was mentioned in the meeting that in 1999-2000 export earning from shrimp was Taka 1612.15 crore, which is 41.70 per cent more than the last year in terms of volume and 38.70 per cent more in terms of value. For increasing fish production the meeting decided to approve the recommendation for distributing water bodies to the real fishermen and introducing organic management of the water bodies.

The meeting also decided to intensify fish production activities across the country and report on the progress.

See page 11 col 8

Bushra murder: 2 sent to jail

By Court Correspondent

Two people arrested in connection with the killing of Bushra Islam Phool were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

Ruhul Amin, brother-in-law of city AL leader Abdul Kader and Mintu, a rickshawpuller, were produced in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday after completion of a two-day police remand.

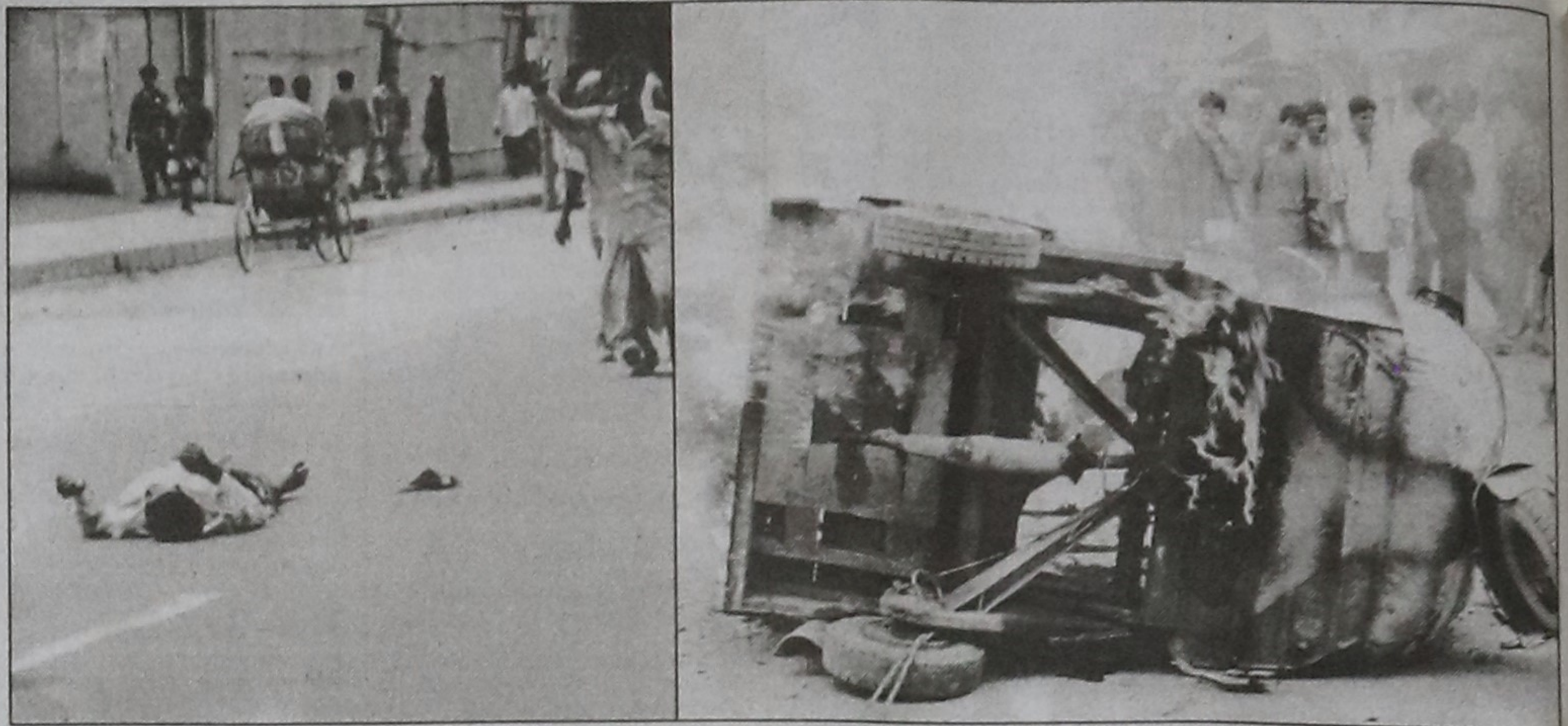
After hearing both the sides the court sent them to jail.

The case was transferred to the CID police from the Detective Branch of police on July 12.

After taking up the case, the CID took Abdul Kader, Sufia Begum and Kaniz Fatema Hena, another accused in the case on eight-day remand. But the CID did not get any important information from them about the murder.

In its report, police said the information derived from the accused during the two-day remand were verified.

Bushra Islam Phool, 18, a college student and only daughter of a retired police officer was murdered at their Hajipara residence on the night of July 1.



A man lying on the street after he fell from a three-wheeler chased by pro-hartal activists in the city's Shantinagar area yesterday (left) and pickets set fire to an autorickshaw at Dolaikhal. — Star photo

Transfer issue Customs officials hold rally in Ctg today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 23: Inter-departmental transfer of 55 more preventive officers and appraisers, triggered a tense situation at Chittagong Customs House, sources said.

Customs officials opposing the inter-departmental transfer also hinted that something "bigger than a ceasefire" was in the offing, but refused to elaborate.

"The ceasefire will be resumed only after India accepts our basic demands, whether in two days, two months or in ten years," he told AFP in the capital of Pakistani Kashmir.

The Hezbul Mujahideen, the most powerful separatist group fighting Indian rule in divided Kashmir, cancelled a ceasefire on August 8 after New Delhi failed to respond to a request for three-way talks including Pakistan.

Hezbul chief commander

Hezbul hints at something 'bigger than ceasefire'

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Aug 23: Hezbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin on Wednesday said a new ceasefire would be declared as soon as India agreed to tripartite talks including Pakistan, reports AFP.

The Mujahideen supreme commander also hinted that something "bigger than a ceasefire" was in the offing, but refused to elaborate.

"The ceasefire will be resumed only after India accepts our basic demands, whether in two days, two months or in ten years," he told AFP in the capital of Pakistani Kashmir.

The Hezbul Mujahideen, the most powerful separatist group fighting Indian rule in divided Kashmir, cancelled a ceasefire on August 8 after New Delhi failed to respond to a request for three-way talks including Pakistan.

Hezbul chief commander

Abdul Majid Dar was quoted by the Current New Service Tuesday as saying he was confident another ceasefire could be arranged within two months, citing "efforts at the international level."

But Salahuddin said Dar had been misquoted and only meant the "situation will be clear within two months."

He said the Hezbul Mujahideen was ready to take a step "bigger than the ceasefire" if India met its demands, adding "Pakistan will back us in that step."

It is not the first time in recent weeks that Salahuddin, based in Pakistan, has corrected published statements by Hezbul Mujahideen representatives from the Indian side of the disputed Himalayan territory.

But he denied there was any rift between the Pakistan-based supreme command and the field commanders in the Indian zone.

"A disinformation campaign is being launched to damage our unity and credibility," he said.

The Hezbul Mujahideen announced its unilateral ceasefire on July 24 and its field commanders engaged in one round of talks with Indian officials before the truce was cancelled, leading to an upsurge in separatist violence.

India blames Pakistan for providing military backing to the 11-year-old Muslim insurgency against Indian rule in Kashmir and has refused to discuss the issue with Islamabad until it withdraws that support.

Pakistan says its involvement stops at moral and diplomatic support for the Kashmiris' right to self-determination as stated in United Nations resolutions.

Bangabandhu Murder Trial

Charges against Rashid framed on hearsay: State Defence

The death reference hearing on Bangabandhu Murder Trial resumed yesterday in the High Court with the arguments for absconding convict sacked lieutenant colonel Khondaker Abdur Rashid being defended by a state appointed lawyer, reports BSS.

The mandatory death reference came on completion of appeal hearing and arguments for four convicts in jail out of the total 15.

Advocate JK Pal, appearing for Rashid, on the first day of

his submission claimed his fugitive client's innocence in the murder case saying unlike other accused he (Rashid) was not a beneficiary of the August 15, 1975 carnage and charges against him were framed on hearsay.

"He was indicted in the case only because he was the brother-in-law of co-accused (sacked Lt. Col.) Syed Farook Rahman," he said.

On a court query on Rashid's presence in several spots and occasions linked to

the killing including his riding in the same car with self-proclaimed president Khondaker Mushtaque Ahmed, Advocate Pal said his client was entitled as an army officer to be present at the places under question.

Police said they have reports that Rashid, a key-plottor of the August 15, 1975 carnage and another convicted non-commissioned officer were hiding in Libya but Tripoli is yet to respond to a letter from Dhaka. See page 11 col 6



Lawyers demonstrating on Dhaka District Court premises yesterday protesting the filing of a case against some of their colleagues under PSA. They have been sued for alleged involvement in ransacking lower courts in the city following the murder of Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal on Sunday. — Star photo

Pak parties to challenge decree barring Sharif, Benazir from politics

ISLAMABAD, Aug 23: Pakistan's main political alliance said today it will go to court to challenge a military government decree that effectively bars former prime ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif from leading parties, reports Reuters.

A meeting of the 17-party Pakistan Awami Ittehad (PAI) also rejected military ruler General Pervez Musharraf's plans to create party-less local councils by mid-2001 in what he calls his "devolution of power" plan.

Alliance leader Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan said after the meeting the PAI would soon file a petition before a court to challenge the August 9 decree, which bars people convicted for offences involving moral turpitude or under an Anti-Terrorism Act from holding an office in a political party.

Legal sources say the decree, which amends an existing Political Parties Act, would disqualify self-exiled Bhutto and jailed Sharif from leading what are Pakistan's largest mainstream parties because of their convictions by special courts.

Nasrullah Khan said it was the job of political parties to decide who should lead them, not a military ruler.

Sharif, whom Musharraf ousted in a bloodless coup last October, was sentenced by an Anti-Terrorism Court in Karachi in April to two life terms on the charge of hijacking and terrorism.

He has appealed against this

sentence before a high court but has not appealed against another special court sentence last month to 14 years' jail and disqualification from holding a political office for 21 years on a corruption charge.

Sharif runs his Pakistan Muslim League from jail and in July acknowledged for the first time that old-foe Bhutto had a critical role to play in any revival of a civilian government in Pakistan. His party is not part of the PAI.

In April last year, an accountability court set up by Sharif's government convicted Bhutto and her jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari of graft. They were sentenced to five years' jail, fined \$8.6 million, had properties confiscated and disqualified the pair from being members of parliament.

The couple has challenged the sentence before the Supreme Court, but Bhutto has not returned from abroad since the conviction for fear of arrest. She has led her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) from self-exile.

The PPP is the main force in the PAI, which today shrunk from 19 parties to 17 after expelling two small parties accused of violating alliance discipline.

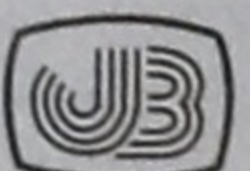
Khan said Musharraf's plan to create non-political local councils was "unworkable" and was contrary to autonomy given to the country's four provinces in the constitution that was suspended after the October 12 coup.

Change of address...

Janata Bank's Panchbari Branch has been shifted with the new name "Dinajpur Medical College Branch" to the following new address with effect from 10 August 2000.

OLD ADDRESS	NEW ADDRESS
Mouja-Chawk Narayanpur J.L. No-174 Khatian No-49 Dag No-73 No. 5 Shashra Union P.S.-Kolwaji Dist.-Dinajpur.	Mouja-Nimtara J.L. No-168 Khatian No-279 Dag No-94 No. 5 Shashra Union P.S.-Kolwaji Dist.-Dinajpur.

All subscribers, clients and well-wishers of the Janata Bank are requested to kindly contact the new address.



Janata Bank
Devoted to the service of Motherland

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Teigaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Telephone Numbers: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> and Email address: dstar@bangla.net