



The World On Time

PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS AND FREIGHT WORLDWIDE

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PM opens 5
bridges on
Dhaka-Ctg
highway

GAZARIA, Munshiganj, Oct 12: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is seeking a second term, today called upon the people to uphold her government-initiated development drive for building a self-reliant and prosperous country, reports AP.

"To achieve this goal we have been implementing coordinated development and welfare programmes," she said while addressing a function at the Comilla-end of Meghna Bridge here.

The function was organised to inaugurate five newly constructed bridges on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Monju, State Minister for Communications Mohammad Anisul Huq Chowdhury, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Kazuyoshi Urabe also addressed the function.

Earlier, the Prime Minister unveiled the plaque of one of the small and medium bridges at Bhati Char.

A new chapter opened in

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Corruption
Barisal Poura
Chairman, 6
others sued

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 12: Anti Corruption Bureau in Barisal has filed a case against seven people including Md Ahsan Habib Kamal, city president of BNP and Barisal Pourasava Chairman, for alleged misappropriation of Tk 27.50 lakh with Kotwali thana yesterday.

The accused are Md Isahaq, Executive Engineer of LGED, Madaripur, Md Siddiqur Rahman, Senior Assistant Secretary, Establishment Department, Khan Md Nurul Islam, Executive Engineer of Barisal Pourasava, Md Abdus Sattar and Md Lutfur Rahman, Sub Assistant Engineers of Barisal Pourasava and Zahir Hossain, a resident of Kalbari road in the town.

Md Abdul Baset, an officer of District Anti Corruption Bureau, filed the case under section 409/468/471/420 of BPC and section 5 (2) of Corruption Prevention Act 1947.

It is alleged that at the end of the BNP regime in 1995 some roads in the Pourasava were damaged due to installation of telephone lines. Later, to repair the damaged roads TSS paid Tk 45 lakh in three cheques to Barisal Pourasava. The then Pourasava Chairman Md Ahsan Habib Kamal, who is also the current chairman, gave work order to a firm M/S High Yarn Enterprise of Dhaka, for the work without floating any tender and after completion of the work paid Tk 39.50,000 illegally from January to June in 1996 in four cheques.

Later it was revealed that all the documents in this regard, even opening of a bank account with UCBL branch here were forged.

Abdur Rab Nakib, the then Anti Corruption officer here, seized the related papers and documents of the works from the Pourasava on November 3, 1996, and filed a case. Then it was revealed that only Tk 1,19,937 was spent for the works and the rest of the total 45 lakh taka was misappropriated.

Now, after about five years, the case has been revived.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 13		5.35 pm
Oct 14	5.55 am	

Prayer Timings

October 13

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Juma	12-15	1-30
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-40	5-45
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

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Rao gets three years

Special court slaps Buta Singh with same sentence

NEW DELHI, Oct 12: Former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao was sentenced today to three years in prison for bribing lawmakers to back his government on a crucial confidence vote that saved his government in July 1993, reports AP.

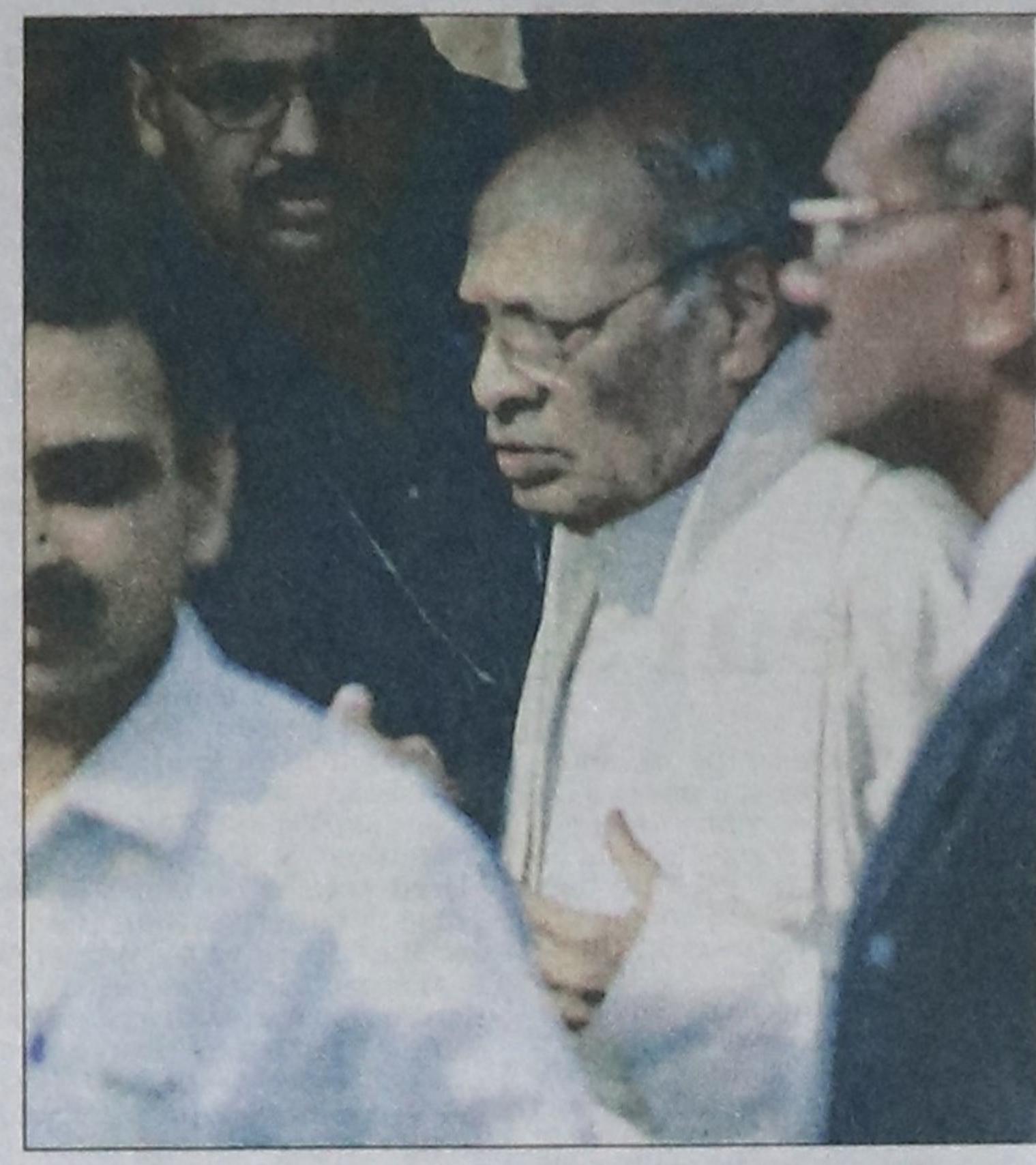
Rao, 79, who held office from 1991-96, was convicted September 29 of criminal conspiracy, bribery and corruption, becoming the first Indian prime minister to be found guilty in a criminal case.

Buta Singh, who served as his home minister, received the same sentence.

India's court system, notorious for years of delays, has begun dealing with serious cases against policians. Also this year a popular southern politician has been convicted in a series of corruption cases dating back to 1991 and a powerful Bombay kingmaker and party president was brought to court on six-year-old charges of inciting riots.

Judge Ajit Bharihi sentenced Rao and Singh to a total of three years "rigorous imprisonment".

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Former Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao comes out of the court room yesterday after being sentenced to three years in prison on charges of bribing opposition MPs in 1993. -- Star photo

Kulsoom under house arrest

100 PML workers detained

ISLAMABAD, Oct 12: The ruling military put the wife of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif under house arrest and detained scores of his party faithful to stifle protests that were to be held Thursday to mark the one-year anniversary of army rule in Pakistan, report agencies.

Kulsoom Sharif was arrested late Wednesday and on Thursday her spokesman, Rashid Latif, said army soldiers and police had confined her to the home of a party official in neighboring Rawalpindi.

Police surrounded the offices of

Sharif's party in Karachi on Thursday after detaining 100 party workers to prevent protests on the first anniversary of military rule.

Witnesses said dozens of policemen and a large van blocked intersections near the Pakistan Muslim League's regional office to prevent party supporters from gathering.

Party vice-president Ejaz Shah told Reuters that the police had detained about 100 party supporters from Karachi late on Wednesday.

They have arrested 90 to 100

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Dissident Chinese wins Nobel for literature

STOCKHOLM, Oct 12: Dissident novelist and playwright Gao Xingjian, who fled his native China after his play was banned, won the Nobel Prize in literature

who makes no claim to be able to explain the world. He asserts that he has found freedom only in writing."

The writer and playwright, born in eastern China, went on a 10-month walking tour in the central Sichuan province to avoid harassment after his play "The Other Shore" was banned in 1986 and left China the next year.

His novel "Soul Mountain" reflected that journey with several narratives by different protagonists. "With his unrestrained use of personal pronouns Gao creates lightning shifts of perspective and compels the reader to question all confidences," the academy said of the novel.

Gao joined the dissident chorus when he quit the Chinese Communist Party after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre and published the play "Fugitives" that took place against the background of the slayings in Beijing. The Communist regime declared him "persona non grata" and banned all his works.

Chen Maiping, who teaches Chinese at the University of Stockholm and is a friend of Gao's, said he was anxious about his work.

"I'm going to congratulate him and tell him to take it easy. He's shy and doesn't handle media very well," Chen told reporters. "He has a good sense of humour and can tell many funny stories."

The prize this year is worth 9 million kronor (915,000 dollar).

The literature award usually the first was the fifth and last Nobel prize unveiled in Stockholm this week. The Nobel Peace Prize is worth 9 million kronor (915,000 dollar).

In the writing of Gao Xingjian literature is born anew from the struggle of the individual to survive the history of the masses," the academy said in its citation. "He is a perspicacious skeptic

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Gao Xingjian

today for writings about the struggle for individuality in mass culture, reports AP.

The Swedish Academy cited Gao, 60, for his "bitter insights and linguistic ingenuity."

Gao survived the upheaval of Mao Tse-tung's 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. He became a leading cultural figure in China but had to leave in 1987. He settled in Paris the following year as a political refugee.

He was the first Chinese writer to receive the prestigious literature prize in its 100-year history.

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Amit isn't the only one

From page 1

Control (CDC) in Atlanta, USA.

Dr Muktar Ali, one of 30 Surveillance Medical Officers under the programme, told the Daily Star yesterday, "In 1999 I myself detected 58 suspected cases and sent stool for examination at the two laboratories (CDC and IIPH). Out of them, six were found infected with wild poliovirus Type One, exactly the same one that infected and paralysed Amit."

In 1999 alone 29 out of 723 suspected cases were found carrying wild poliovirus. Of them,

only two had poliovirus type three (P3W) while the rest had P1W.

The infected persons are in 18 districts across the country, namely Brahmanbaria (1), Chandpur (1), Chittagong (2), Comilla (5), Laxmipur (2), Noakhali (1), Dhaka (3 all in city corporation area), Faridpur (2), Kishoreganj (1), Madaripur (3), Mymensingh (1), Narshingdi (1), Sharaitpur (1), Magura (1), Moulvibazar (1), Chaitapnawabganj (1), Gabtola (1) and Barguna (1).

The surveillance report also said the timeliness of monthly reporting of cases from hospitals is rather poor. In 1998 only 15 per cent were achieved against a target of at least 80 per cent, in 1999 it was 44 per cent while it increased to 58 per cent this year.

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The case detection of AFP with two stool specimens collected within 14 days since onset of the paralysis is still below the target, 68 per cent against a target of 80 per cent.

The paralytic poliomyelitis virus enters a child through mouth and reproduces in the intestine. The virus incubates between four and 30 days before it attacks its victim.

Only one per cent of the infected become paralysed while the rest would not even realise that they had the virus. It attacks and destroys motor nerve cells in spinal cord causing paralysis. The virus mostly gets out of the body through stool.

The wild poliovirus that has a global mortality rate of about 12 per cent is of three types. Type one is most likely to cause paralys-

Fire at textile mill in N'ganj:
20 injured

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Oct 12 A textile mill was gutted in a fire at Kanchpur in Sonargaon thana in the early hours today.

Sources said that the fire broke out in the weaving store of Sinha Textile Mills at 2-30 am and soon engulfed other section of the mill and gutted finished goods and machinery.

The workers of the mill tried to extinguish the blaze on their own. But panic spread over the Kanchpur industrial area as the fire became furious.

A fire fighting unit from Demra rushed to the spot at 3-30 am. Later three other units from Ramma and Hajiganj and Mondalpara of Narayanganj joined them. The four units brought the fire under control after six hours of frantic efforts. At least 20 people were injured while extinguishing the fire. They were given first aid.

Fire Brigade sources said that the fire originated from an electric short circuit but police said that there was no electric connection in the weaving section of the mill. So the fire might not originate from short circuit.

Meanwhile, the General Manager of the mill Col (Retd) Md Hossain lodged a GD with Sonargaon thana but he didn't mention the extent of damage or the cause of the fire.

GrameenPhone
clarification

GrameenPhone has issued a clarification on a news item headlined 'Two killed in GrameenPhone tower collapse', published in The Daily Star yesterday.

The clarification said, "GrameenPhone was not involved in the piling work for installation of the tower at the time of the tragic accident. The piling work at the site at village Faltita under Fakirhat Thana of Bagerhat district was being done by Libra Construction. We regret the loss of lives in the tragic accident."

They are not allowing any of us to go out," Shahi said.

"They went to stop us from our right to a peaceful protest because they are afraid of the people," said Rashid Latif, a party official in neighboring Rawalpindi.

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powder for sanitation purposes, while the World Food Programme distributing biscuits as an immediate response.

The World Health Organisation's contribution consists of water purification tablets and anti-snake serum.

The UNDMT also discussed the meeting with multilateral donors that was convened Wednesday by the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

It welcomed government's decision to initiate a dialogue with donors about the rehabilitation assistance needs in the post-flood period.

Deadlines were agreed for each concerned ministry to finalize preliminary estimates of assistance needs, following which the government will carry out a detailed field assessment of medium-term rehabilitation needs be funded by resources available within an existing UNDP-funded project related to disaster management.

Special attention will also be paid to the need for rehabilitation of common facilities such as rural clinics and schools along with the government to jumpstart agricultural production in the affected areas, as soon as the flood waters recede," said the UN office in Dhaka.

"Special attention will also be paid to the need for rehabilitation of common facilities such as rural clinics and schools along with the government to jumpstart agricultural production in the affected areas, as soon as the flood waters recede," said the UN office in Dhaka.

Concerned UN agencies are currently distributing relief supplies in the flood-affected regions with UNICEF providing blended food for children and bleaching

syndrome and most typically causes outbreaks.

Dr Sniadack said, "Success to eradicate polio from Bangladesh depends on developing good networking and reporting system even by parents who see slightest symptoms of paralysis.

"Unfortunately, many parents in the rural areas still take their sick children to traditional healers instead of hospitals and that is where lies the setback of the programme. So, currently we are addressing at changing behaviours of the parents and others."

Researchers still have not yet been able to identify the reasons why polio leads to paralysis. However, immune deficiency, pregnancy, tonsillectomy, intramuscular injections and strenuous exercise may cause paralys-

is.</