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STORES



Picture by Zaidi.S.M. Sibtain

## INSIDE TODAY

GULF NEWS gives you on pages 4 and 5 today a special feature written by Dubai lawyer, Dr. Aziz Kurtha. Dr. Kurtha writes on the dilemma that faces Pakistan with the execution of ex-Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Written a few days before Bhutto's execution, the article touches on the unfortunate ex-Premier's book, IF I AM ASSASSINATED which he describes as Mr Bhutto's "tragic swansong." Dr. Kurtha goes on to the trial of Mr Bhutto, the opinions of the dissenting judges and the death sentence which he labels as "judicially unjustifiable although correct in law."

All the appeals of world leaders, the last ditch pleas for clemency, have not saved Mr Bhutto from the hangman's rope. Dr. Kurtha reminds that there is a Koranic prohibition against the maximum penalty for murder when the accused, as in Mr Bhutto's case, was not even alleged to be at the scene of the crime.

ON PAGE 2, we offer you a sketch of Mr Bhutto—his political beginnings and rise to power.

**Twenty five rupees—  
to hang a  
Premier**

Four other men were hanged with Mr Bhutto, for their part in the murder conspiracy.

They were named as Mian Mohammad Abbas, Gulam Mustafa, Arrad Iqbal, and Rana Istikhar.

The executioner who carried out yesterday's hanging was Tara Masish, a Christian Pakistani who comes from a long line of hangmen. He was paid 25 rupees (about two and a half US dollars) for despatching Mr Bhutto. He runs a general store in Lahore.

Newspapers throughout Pakistan produced special editions on the execution.

## Hanged in defiance of world opinion

# Shock, grief, regret follow Bhutto's death

**WASHINGTON—Pakistani President General Zia-Ul-Haq was denounced by a leading US Senator yesterday as Washington heard that former Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had been executed.**

Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called the reported hanging "an atrocious action, one which, I think, shocks the sensibilities of civilised nations—of which, obviously, Pakistan is not one."

President Carter was among many world political and religious leaders who made personal appeals for clemency on behalf of Mr Bhutto earlier this year.

Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau also asked that Mr Bhutto's life be spared.

There was no immediate reaction from the White House but a State Department spokesman said he expected to issue a statement later.

"On several occasions we did make known our hope that his life would be spared," the spokesman said.

Officials here expressed con-

cern at the impact the execution of Mr Bhutto could have on the already unstable political condition of Pakistan.

IN CANBERRA, Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock said the Australian Government deeply regretted the execution of former Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Mr Peacock told the House of Representatives (Lower House) that Mr Bhutto was a prominent international figure known for his support of issues affecting developing countries.

"We regret that representations and appeals for clemency were not accepted," Mr Peacock stated.

IN WELLINGTON New Zealand Foreign Minister Brian Talboys said his government is saddened by the execution of Pakistan's former Prime Minister.

"Mr Bhutto had dedicated his life to his country and he had served well," Mr Talboys said in a statement.

"He had earned the high

regard in which he was held, both within Pakistan and outside it."

In February New Zealand joined a number of other countries in appealing to the Government of Pakistan to commute the sentence of death passed on Mr Bhutto—an appeal motivated purely by a concern for human-

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## Bhutto's party tipped to win

**RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN—Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's execution could unleash a violent reaction throughout Pakistan. He still has a strong following in his Pakistan People's Party (PPP).**

Army patrols moved throughout the area, but there were no signs of immediate unrest yesterday.

Members of his family would be strong rallying points in general elections due to be held on November 17, and a secret poll conducted by the Army showed that the PPP would win such an election.

Mr Bhutto, who ruled Pakistan from 1971 to 1977, was hanged before daybreak yesterday and later buried quietly near his ancestral home, in Sind Province the Government announced.

An Interior Ministry announcement broadcast by Radio Pakistan said the 51-year-old former Prime Minister, was executed after President Mohammed Zia Ul-Haq, the army chief who overthrew Bhutto on July 5, 1977, rejected all appeals for clemency in Bhutto's murder case.

Bhutto was convicted and sentenced to hang on March 18, 1978, for ordering a political murder. The Supreme Court last February 6 in a 4-3 decision confirmed the sentence.

All legal appeals against his sentence failed and Mr Bhutto had refused to beg Pakistan's President, General Zia for mercy. Heads of state throughout the world had asked General Zia to spare the ex-Premier.

Mr Bhutto spent a year in the death cell while the legal debate about his future raged in the courts. Towards the end he was reported by people who saw him to be a gaunt, grey-bearded shadow of his once-debonair self.

The execution of the 51-year-old Mr Bhutto went with military precision.

He went to the gallows at 2am (2100 GMT Monday) and at about 4.00am yesterday a military truck drove into the prison under heavy escort.

It came out shortly afterwards and all traffic was stopped as the truck sped to a nearby airport.

A special aircraft then carried the body from the Islamabad International Airport to Sukkur Airport in Sind.

From there it was taken by helicopter to a cemetery near Mr Bhutto's farm at Naudero, 13 miles from Larkana.

By 10.30am yesterday the burial was complete.

Pakistan Radio said funeral prayers were offered at the graveside by family members, including two uncles.

### HOUSE ARREST

But Mr Bhutto's Iranian-born wife Nusrat and his daughter Benazir were unable to be present as they were under house arrest at a police compound outside Rawalpindi.

At first sources close to President Zia had said that the execution was not imminent, but one clue came on Tuesday when Mr Bhutto's Iranian-born wife and daughter Benazir had spent the

unusually long time of two and a half hours with him in the death cell.

### RESIGNED

Mrs. Bhutto, in a note smuggled to her lawyer, said she had been told it was to be her last visit.

Members of his family said he was resigned to his fate.

All legal appeals against the sentence had failed, and Mr Bhutto refused to beg President Zia for mercy, maintaining his innocence.

Heads of state throughout the world had asked General Zia to show mercy.

Bhutto had strenuously denied the charge that he ordered the murder of a political opponent while he was in power.

In many ways Bhutto's arrogance, which his followers saw as political daring, may have led to his death.

He boycotted the trial at which his life was at stake, calling it "a handle for political exploitation."

In 1968, he showed similar daring, with more positive results, when he launched a campaign to topple the seemingly-impregnable army-backed government of the late Field Marshal Ayub Khan.

## Friends no longer

PEKING—China has said it would not renew its 30-year friendship treaty with the Soviet Union when the pact expires next year.

The New China News Agency said this was decided at a meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliament "in view of the fact that great changes have taken place in the international situation and that the treaty has long ceased to exist except in name owing to violations for which the Chinese side is not responsible."

## WEATHER

WEATHER: Mainly fair with sun haze at times and very slight chance of dawn fog. Wind will be light and variable and along sea coast will be slight. Maximum temperature 32°C (90°F); Minimum 16°C (61°F). Maximum humidity 88 per cent; Minimum humidity 20 per cent.

SUNSET: 18.37 hours  
SUNRISE tomorrow: 06.06 hours

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