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Fall of Lon Nol's Astrologer

Phnom Penh

Cambodian President Lon Nol fired his favorite fortune-teller a week ago shortly after bombs narrowly missed his residence, sources said Saturday.

The Cambodian leader was reported unhappy with astrologer Man Promoni's work during the recent crisis, including the presidential assassination attempt.

Man Promoni, who had been promoted to the rank of captain by President Lon Nol because of his fortune-telling abilities, reportedly has been demoted to the provinces and already has left the capital.

Fortune - tellers and Buddhist monks play an important role in Cambodia. Most of the population, from the lowly peasant to the highest government officials, is openly superstitious and uses the services of fortune-tellers.

Agence France-Presse