

## Nobel Medicine Prize for Americans

## How cells talk to each other

STOCKHOLM, Oct 10: Two Americans Alfred G. Gilman and Martin Rodbell, won the Nobel Prize in medicine today for a "paramount" discovery of how cells talk to each other, reports AP.

Their work in the 1960s and 1970s paved the way for understanding such diverse afflictions as diabetes, diarrhoea, alcoholism and cholera, which affect millions of people around the globe.

The scientists were the first to identify elements called G-proteins and the role they play in "signal transduction" in cells," said a statement from the Nobel Assembly at Sweden's Karolinska Institute.

"It is like a key component in a telephone switchboard," said Dr Bertil Fredholm, a professor of pharmacology at the Karolinska Institute, said during a news conference.

"Considered a milestone in understanding a number of diseases, the discovery had been 'a complete surprise and it solved a number of problems'," Fredholm said.

Although their research hasn't netted any treatments

yet for the diseases, the institute predicted ultimately it will.

Reached at his home in the United States, Gilman said he was awestruck. "I'm more excited than I've ever been."

Gilman and Rodbell found that disturbances in the G-proteins functions — too many or too few of them — can confuse cells and lead to disease.

That discovery led scientists to trace G-protein problems in many diseases. In cholera, for example, scientist have found that the bacteria alters the G-Protein, turning it into something akin to a "green light" in a cell allowing constant dehydration.

"This prevents salt and water from being normally absorbed from the intestines. The resulting loss of water and salt can lead to dehydration and death," the statement said.

In diabetes and alcoholism, the discovery has allowed scientists to pinpoint "altered signaling" between G-proteins in cells, the statement said.

Mutated and overactive G-proteins also have been found in some tumors and skeletal

deformations, the statement said.

"Due to the discoveries of Gilman and Rodbell, and their work, several laboratories turned to (research in this) area. Therefore we now know a great deal about the functions of G-proteins and how they control the activities of the cell," the statement said.

Gilman, 53, works in the department of pharmacology at the University of Texas, in Dallas.

Rodbell, 68, works at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, in North Carolina, the statement said.

At the time of the discoveries, Rodbell and his team were working at the US National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, Md. Gilman was working at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

They will share the Nobel Prize in medicine, which is worth 7 million kronor, or about 930,000 dollars this year. The award is to be handed over in a ceremony on December 10 in Stockholm.



Health assistants holding a rally in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday. —Star photo

## Kamal sees no alternative to dialogue

Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said lack of sincerity on the part of both the government and the Opposition about a successful dialogue is the main cause of the staggering parliamentary impasse, reports UNB.

"They should realise that there is no alternative to a dialogue to solve the present political stalemate," he told a press conference at the party office here yesterday afternoon.

Congratulating the initiative for a Government-Opposition dialogue, Dr Kamal said, "people want solution of any crisis through discussion, they want to see parliament operative."

He blamed the government

Ershad

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for time to appoint layers and cross examine PW-4.

Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzak Khan made a mild objection. He said Yusuf Hossain Humayun, defence counsel of Haider had discussed the case with Ershad sitting in the dock before cross examining SMA Mannan, PW-4. There was no need of any counsel for Ershad in this case, Khan said.

The judge granted Ershad's verbal prayer to appoint lawyers and asked him to submit written prayer. She fixed October 19 for hearing.

The case relates to spending government money over Taka 82 lakh for the repair and reconstruction of an abandoned house in Dhanmondi residential area which was used as the central office of the Jatiya Party.

The bus driver earlier alleged to police that a group of youngsters who boarded his bus had stabbed him during an altercation over the bus fare.

Both bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. No arrest was made.

LDF hartal

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in carrying forward the agitation for realising the demand for a caretaker government.

The LDF also called for repealing all black laws, controlling of black money and terrorism and prohibition of the participation of defaulters and communal political elements in future elections.

The Front has urged all to be ready for agitation against external interference into the country's politics and economic sectors.

Merchant Bankers

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guard the share market from uncertainties, said an official of the SEC, since underwriters are to buy the remaining portion of the shares in case of any undersubscription.

Undersubscription is still a rare incident, he said, but its frequency may rise with the expansion of the capital market.

The proposed regulation will also particularly emphasise on the expertise of the intermediary institutions handling issues and portfolios, beginning from prospectus preparation to allotment of shares.

Requisite qualifications of their staff members as well as relevant experiences of the company directors are to be standardised under the regulations.

SEC sources said a draft of the regulation has already been prepared and is now being sent to different concerned institutions, including the chambers, to elicit comments. The law is likely to be finalised by the end of this year, they said.

Some securities companies, while talking to UNB, said they would welcome such regulations for the financial intermediaries.

"Of course, we will welcome any such regulations, but we expect those to be supportive and realistic," said M G Azam Chowdhury, a director of the Securities Consultant Ltd.

A R Atiq, director of the Corporate Securities Management Ltd said: "A regulation is required so that we could clearly know our jurisdiction, now we are a bit in the dark."

The securities companies, however, wanted that they would be consulted by the SEC prior to finalising the law.

and the parliament members for creating a critical situation in the country and called for administrative reforms and democratisation of the administration to reflect hopes and aspiration of the people.

The Gano Forum leader said neutrality of the administration and police department are the preconditions for making the election free and fair. "Real independence and effectiveness of the Election Commission is also important for that," he added.

He suggested that the participants of the proposed dialogue come up with a specific code of conduct for candidates of elections and they should be committed to refraining from using black money and arms during elections.

"We hope that the dialogue will be free and open, and the proposal of all the participants will be published for the people," Dr Kamal said.

Regular talks on Rohingya's return uncertain

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 10: The regular talks between Bangladesh and Myanmar on Rohingya refugee repatriation has become uncertain, official sources here said.

Set to be held in the Maungdaw township of Myanmar, the 18th round of talks has become uncertain as Myanmar sealed off on October 1 the border because of "the plague threat from Bangladesh", they said.

## 11500 held in Pakistan ahead of today's strike

ISLAMABAD, Oct 10: More than 11,000 people have been arrested in a nationwide crackdown on the eve of a general strike called by former premier and opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, opposition sources said today.

Mushahid Hussain, Sharif's official spokesman, told APP that about 11,500 people had been arrested in police swoops across the country.

A majority of those jailed over the past 48 hours were from populous Punjab province, Sharif's powerbase, from where some 5,500 people have so far been netted, Hussain added.



The arrested three with the recovered statue

## Statue recovered: 3 held

By Staff Correspondent

Detective police recovered a 45-kilogram statue of Lord Shiva from the city's Mirpur area yesterday and arrested three persons in this connection.

The statue believed to be made of black stone and valued at Tk 30 lakh, was found in the house of one Khodeza Begum, 35, whose husband — Hafiz — is living in Saudi Arabia.

Earlier, a DB team led by an assistant commissioner, Kohinur Mia, acting on a tip off, arrested two persons — Mozibur Rahman alias Jhunu and Habibur Rahman — from Kafur Bazaar in the Cantonment area around noon.

Later, on the basis of their statement, the police recovered the statue from Khodeza's house at 924 Monipuripara, Mirpur around 2 pm.

All three persons, including Khodeza, were detained under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr PC).

The investigating police officer said, they were looking for another person who reportedly hid the statue in Khodeza's house.

"We have informed the Archaeology Department to examine the statue whether it is an antique and made of black stone," the investigating officer said.

Police believe the arrested are members of antique-smuggling ring.

## AL, Jamaat

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of the legislation in the face of continued people's resistance to it, the AL leader added.

Replying to a question, Zilur Rahman said the government decision had no connection with the proposed Commonwealth-brokered dialogue between the Opposition and the ruling BNP to end the present political impasse.

Acting chairman of the Jatiya Party (JP) Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, said that the decision to withdraw the law did not make any difference to his party because the government had already oppressed and repressed hundreds of the JP activists using the law.

Jamaat secretary general Matfur Rahman Nizami said, "We would like to thank the government for the decision not to seek further extension of the tenure of the black law." The Jamaat leader, however, demanded immediate withdrawal of the "politically motivated" charges against the Opposition activists under the law.

Bimol Biswas of the Left Democratic Front (LDF), a combine of eight left leaning parties, said, the government, by taking the decision, had only kept its words because "the law had been made for two years".

Termining the government announcement a result of the people's struggle against the black law, Biswas said.

Newsprint

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country is 4,000 metric tons per month and 75 per cent of the production, 3,000 metric tons, were being supplied to the newspaper industry.

The meeting held detailed discussion about the problems arising out of the situation. It was decided that there would be no allocation of newsprint for the newspapers to be published in future and they would have to meet their requirements through private initiative.

The government would have to ensure that the newspapers lift their allotted quotas, the meeting decided.

Besides, the government may allow import of newsprint through private initiative to meet the additional demand of concerned newspapers.

The meeting also decided to form a committee to rationalise the newsprint quota for the newspapers.

Information Secretary Dr Ekram Hossain, Education Secretary AHM Abdul Hye, Commerce Secretary Mofazzal Karim, BCIC chairman Wasek Al Azad, Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP) President Prof Majedul Islam and Secretary General AQM Zainul Abedin, and the representatives of Education Ministry, DFP, and the National Curriculum and Text Board were present.

Advanced team

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15th. BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder told reporters.

Before the formal dialogue gets underway, Sir Ninian is expected to have separate meetings with leaders of the governing party and the opposition.

Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad are likely to lead their respective sides at the dialogue.

Durga Puja

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have been set up in seven thanas of the district of which 27 are in Narayanganj town.

About 50 arches have been erected in different part of the town with illumination.

Durga Puja also began in Chittagong with traditional enthusiasm and religious fervor.

Members of the Hindu community yesterday invoked the goddess Durga through unveiling the cover of the idol of Durga erected in all puja pandels.

## The Midnight File

## Cedras to leave Haiti this week

WASHINGTON, Oct 10: Haitian military leader Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras will leave the country this week, US Defence Secretary William Perry said today. Cedras and Brigadier-General Philippe Biamby are stepping down later today, reports Reuter.

## Swiss suicide mastermind found among dead

LAUSANNE, Oct 10: Swiss police said Monday that Joseph di Mambro, mastermind of the doomsday cult at the centre of last week's death of 53 people, died with his followers. A statement from Valais state police said Di Mambro had been formally identified as one of the bodies found in a charred chalet in the village of Granges-Sur-Salvan, reports AP.

## SM Sultan dead

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The news of his death cast a pall of gloom all over the country.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, Agriculture Minister Majid U Huq, Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam and State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof. Jahannara Begum in separate messages condoled the death of S M Sultan.

President Biswas said Sultan's death was an irreparable loss in the arena of art and painting.

Termining him "a legend during his life time," Begum Zia said Bangladesh would continue to feel proud of S M Sultan for his superb works which enhanced the image of the country abroad.

Sheikh Hasina said the art works of Sultan will remain an eternal source of inspiration for generations to come.

Hasina demanded that all

S M Sultan's death condoled

By Staff Correspondent

Different socio-cultural and political organisations, in separate messages yesterday, expressed their profound shock at the death of eminent artist S M Sultan.

President of Bangladesh Charu Shilpi Sangsad Hashem Khan said Sultan's death was an irreparable loss to the nation. Sultan enriched the artistic heritage of Bangladesh with his invaluable paintings.

The works of Sultan should be preserved, he said.

Rafiqun Nabi, Director of the Fine Arts Institute, Dhaka University, condoled the death of the eminent artist.

Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad President Prof Majidul Islam and Secretary General Zainul Abedin termed the death of S M Sultan an irreparable loss to the country's art and cultural arena.

Abdullah Al-Mamun of International Theatre Institute said that Sultan's death created a void in the world of art.

General Secretary of the "theater" said that future generations would draw inspiration from the works of Sultan.

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, in a message, said the late painter created a new trend in the art world.

Bangladesh Lekhak Shibir president Md Abdul Matin and Secretary Azfar Hussain said "the death of a creative artist like Sultan is a big loss for the community of creative artists and people alike."

Anti-terrorism

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Commonwealth Emissary Sir Ninian Stephen, due October 13.

The BNP Secretary General said both the ruling party and the Opposition agreed on a three-point agenda proposed by the Commonwealth Secretary General. These are: Strengthening of the Election Commission, the caretaker government issue and code of conduct for political leaders and activists.

After the first round of talks, he said, a joint statement will be issued which will bar parties concerned from making comments. "I think there will be a result if the dialogue is held under this framework."

When asked why the announcement on Anti-Terrorism Act was made by the BNP Secretary General and a government announcement was not made, Talukder said "It is a party government and such announcement is not in violation of any rules."

In reply to another question whether they have any plan to have such law enacted in future, the BNP Secretary General said "those who will govern the country in future may go for a tougher law if they feel it necessary under the circumstances."

He said such laws to curb terrorist activities are in force in many democratic countries.

Asked about the comparative rate of crime before and after the anti-terrorism law was enacted, the BNP Secretary General said "Instantly we have no such record."

One of the most gifted artists of this soil, Sultan was awarded "Ekushey Padok" in 1982, Bangladesh Charushilpi Sangsad honour in 1986 and Independence Day award in 1993. His biography and photograph were selected for publication in the 9th edition of the "Mam of Achievement-1982" by International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, England. Bangladesh government appointed him 'resident artist' of Shilpakala Academy in 1984 in recognition of his contribution in the field of art.

The government built a three-room house for the artist at Narail in 1984. He spent his last days at "Shishu Swarga" at a village in Narail till death on 10 October, '94.

A week long photographic exhibition on the veteran artist was held at German Cultural Institute in Dhaka in 1987.

A bachelor S M Sultan left behind innumerable students and host of admirers at home and abroad.

## PM begins Malaysia tour today

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visit the Prime Minister is expected to convey her special thanks to her Malaysian counterpart for the enlarged manpower outflow and also stress further cooperation in this direction.

The two prime ministers will hold talks covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Deliberations shall also take place on regional and international issues of mutual concern. Both the countries are members of many international organisations like the OIC, Commonwealth, Non-Aligned Movement, and Group of 77. They also hold similar views on many global issues including the cause of the Third World and the welfare of the Muslim Ummah.

The two sides will also discuss ways and means of expanding bilateral trade to remove the existing trade imbalance against Bangladesh.

Bangladesh imported goods worth nearly 50 million US dollars till May this year while its exports to Malaysia stood at around six million dollars.

Exports from Bangladesh include fertilisers, shrimp, chemicals, juice and frozen fish while imports from Malaysia comprises items like vegetable oil seeds, electrical goods, medicine and rubber products.

Bangladesh is likely to request Malaysia to increase its import of shrimp and jute products. Malaysia may make a request to increase the import of palm oil. Dhaka has already reduced the tariff on palm oil.

## Export earning falls

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cent while that for primary commodities marked an increase by 2.53 per cent.

Without the unexpectedly good performance by some non-traditional sectors like frozen foods and knit-wear, the overall export performance for the period would have been much worse, observers noted.

Raw jute exports earnings fell by 43.15 per cent as only 6.68 million dollars worth of raw jute was exported during July and August as against the export of 11.75 million dollars during the same period of 1993-94. The exported amount is also 49.89 per cent lower than the target set for the period.

The EPB report noted that the earnings from raw jute was lower because of a 44.84 per cent decline in exports, although the average export unit price increased by 3.06 per cent during the same period.

Earnings from tea exports marked a steeper decline by 57.78 per cent as only 3.01 million dollars worth of tea was exported during the two months as against 7.13 million dollars in July and August of 1993.

The EPB attributed the fall in tea export earnings to a decline in unit export price and export quantity by 11.59 per cent and 52.32 per cent respectively.

The sharp fall in export earnings from the RMG sector, which makes up over 50 per cent of the country's total exports, is most alarming. The annual target of earnings from this sector has been set at 2050 million dollars for 1994-95.

Earnings from the garment sector stood at 192.52 million dollars during two months or 24.11 per cent lower than the earnings during the same period of the previous fiscal year. The amount was 43.85

per cent lower than the 341.67 million dollars target set for the period.

The EPB report pointed out that both the export unit price and the volume of exports of the garment sector declined by 9.05 per cent and 16.58 per cent respectively during the period.

At a press conference earlier on Saturday, President of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Redwan Ahmed, MP, however, blamed irrational tax hurdles, complicated customs formalities and inefficient infrastructure facilities for reducing the competitive edge of the country's garment sector.

The BGMEA put forward a 12-point demand to the government for implementation by October 24 and warned of a greater action programme if the demands are not met on time.

The performance of the frozen food sector was only one of the few bright spots in the export earnings for July and August. The export earnings of 57.22 million dollars from the sector was 49.28 per cent higher than the target and 35.62 per cent more than the earnings during the same period of last year.

Earnings from the leather sector also increased by 17.18 per cent to 29.33 million dollars, but it was still short of the target of 35 million dollars for the two-month period.

Earnings from the knit-wear and hosiery sector also increased by 28.44 per cent to 44.80 million dollars. But it also fell short of the target for the period by 10.4 per cent.

The jute goods sector also did comparatively well as earnings increased 2.71 per cent to 54.61 million dollars and it also exceeded the target by 4.02 per cent during the two months.

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