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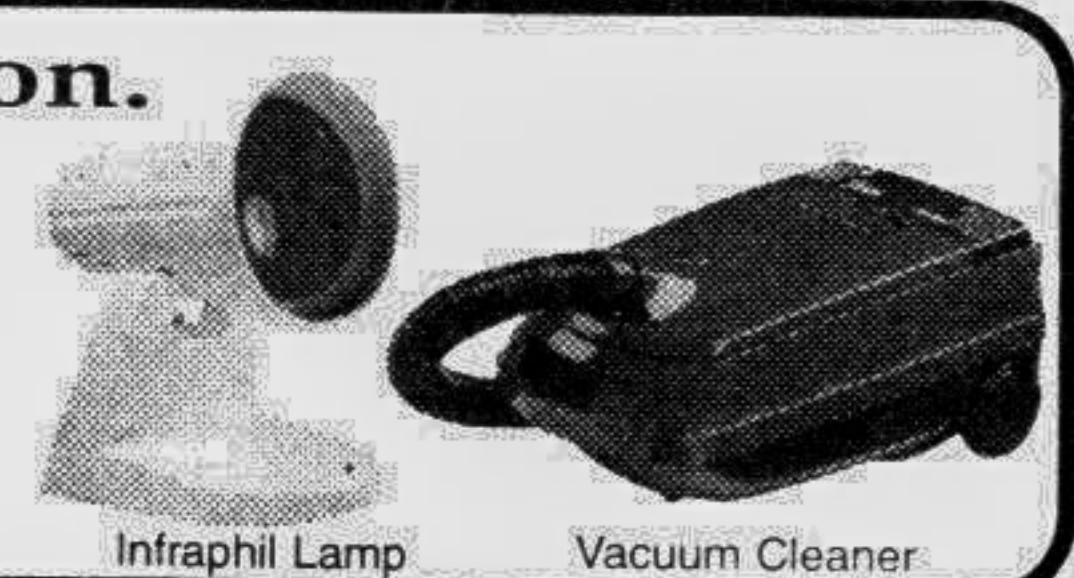
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## Obituary

### 'Godfather' author Mario Puzo passes away

NEW YORK, July 3: Mario Puzo, who won two Oscars for his adaptation of his best-selling novel 'The Godfather' and romanticised the Mafia with his depiction of the fiercely loyal and honour-bound Corleone family, died of heart failure Friday. He was 78, reports AP.

The son of Italian immigrants, who wrote seven other novels and assorted Hollywood screenplays, died in his home on Long Island. He had just completed 'Omerta', the third book in his Mafia trilogy, said Neil Olson, his literary agent.

Puzo was an obscure if critically acclaimed novelist when he sat down at his vintage manual typewriter in the late 1960s, determined to write a blockbuster that would pull him out of debt.

He succeeded. 'The Godfather', published in 1969, sold 21 million copies worldwide and introduced the world to his Corleone family, who mingled old-world Sicilian values with new-world American violence.

Puzo and director Francis Ford Coppola co-wrote the screenplays for 'The Godfather' and two sequels; they earned Academy Awards in 1972 and 1974 for their work, and the first two films became American cinematic classics.

The Corleones were brought to life on screen by Marlon Brando as Don Vito Corleone, with James Caan, Al Pacino and John Cazale playing his sons Sonny, Michael and Fredo. In the sequel, Robert De Niro played the young Don. The two movies won a combined nine Oscars, including two for best picture.

Puzo was born Oct 15, 1920, in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen, the son of illiterate Italian immigrants. His father deserted a wife and seven children when

Puzo was 12, and the young boy took a job with the New York Central Railroad.

By age 16, Puzo had decided to become a writer — but World War II interrupted. After serving in Germany, Puzo came home and began writing pulp stories for men's magazines.

He published his first novel, 'The Dark Arena', in 1955. He spent nine years on his next book 'The Fortunate Pilgrim'.

'The Godfather' is not as good as the preceding two (novels), he once said bluntly. 'I wrote it to make money.'

'The Godfather' arrived in 1969 and exploded to the top of the best-seller lists. After its success, Puzo was often asked if he had ties to organised crime — and his answer was always no.

It might have been preferable to be in the Mafia, he said in 1996. 'I'm glad I'm a writer, but it's hard work. Nobody likes to work hard.'

His Oscar-winning work on the 'Godfather' series led to other screenplays, including two Superman movies, 'The Cotton Club', and 'Christopher Columbus'.

Puzo's other books included 'Fool's Die', a 1978 effort on casinos; the No 1 best-seller 'The Sicilian' in 1984; 'The Fourth Deadly Sin', a political thriller about a fictional member of the Kennedy family, in 1992; and 'The Last Don' in 1996, a return to his favourite topic, the Mafia.

'The Last Don' became another runaway best seller and was the basis for a highly rated television miniseries. It was also the second book in his Mafia trilogy.

Puzo spent the last three years on 'Omerta', about mob family on the brink of legitimacy. 'Omerta' is the word for the mob's code of silence; the book is due out in July 2000.



Garos students staged a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding trial of those who allegedly raped and killed a girl from Garo tribe in Mymensingh recently. —Star photo

### Labina murder Garos students submit memo to Home Minister

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Garo Chhatra Sangathan (BGCS), a platform of Garo tribal students, brought out a procession in the city yesterday and submitted a memorandum to Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, demanding immediate arrest and trial of the killers of Labina Hawul.

Labina, 18, a girl from Garo tribe, was allegedly raped and killed at the Veterinary Training Institute (VTI) in Mymensingh on June 24. She was working as a domestic help at the VTI principal's residence.

The BGCS also held a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar following the procession.

Addressing the rally, leaders of BGCS and other tribal organisations blamed VTI Principal Dr Paresch Chandra Sarker, his two sons and brother Dr Dinesh Chandra Sarker for the incident.

They also alleged that the victim's family was being threatened by the killers and demanded exemplary punishment of those involved in the rape and killing.

Presided over by BGCS city unit president Uzzal Azim, the rally was addressed by, among others, Shagata Chisim, Nikhil Mankhin, Prodip Schu, Tapon Chakrabarty, Nipun Sangma, Sanjib Drong, Kabita Chakma, Denish Marandi and Birtamoi Dhamai.

Several other tribal organisations supported the agitation. These include Tribal Welfare Association, Garo Women's Association, Garo Adibashi Sangrami, Oikya Parishad, Jatiya Adibashi Samanmittee, Garo Students' Union and Bangladesh Indigenous Youth Association.

Uzzal said labour intensive sectors like garments and high tech industries are among the best areas for investment.

He favoured setting up of industries that will use raw materials from Japan. In that context, he said, industries that need heavy raw materials will not be viable.

Asked whether the Japanese investors are showing enough interest in investing in Bangladesh's apparel sector, Uzzal said, 'Japanese investors suffered a major setback in China's apparel industry. That is why they are now not inclined enough to make further investment abroad in this sector.'

He also pointed to the stagnating economy of Japan that also discourages Japanese investors from taking any further risk.

Press reports say Japanese companies are now busy with reviewing their investments in Asia. Many of them have either stopped fresh investments in Asia or squeezed, prompting the US and German companies to go for an aggressive expansion of their businesses in Asia, the survey said.

Japan's investment in Asia plunged to 44 per cent to 7 billion US dollar this year from 11 billion US dollar a year back.

Half a million US college students own guns

WASHINGTON, July 3: Nearly half a million of US college students own guns, according to a Harvard University study released Friday, reports Xinhua.

About 3.5 per cent of college students surveyed said they have a gun at school, said Dr. Matthew Miller, a researcher at Harvard's Injury Research and Control Centre.

Some 14 million students attend colleges in the United States, so roughly 450,000 students own guns based on that percentage, he said.

### New Mooring container terminal project moves ahead

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, July 3: Steps are underway to engage consultants for the New Mooring container terminal project at Chittagong port, port sources said.

The project of New Mooring container terminal received approval from ECNEC in May, port sources added.

With the installation of the container terminal at New Mooring point at an estimated cost of about Taka 800 crores the Chittagong port will have the capacity to handle additional three lakh containers.

The terminal with modern facilities will be built with the fund of Chittagong port authority alone, the sources added.

The container terminal project at New Mooring point of Chittagong port was taken in 1996 against the backdrop of growing pressure of container cargo at Chittagong port.

But the project remained shelved for a long time due to bureaucratic tangles though its urgency was felt to cope with the rapid growth of container cargo by 25 per cent every year, sources said.

Later, frequent agitation of workers and employees of Chittagong port demanding installation of New Mooring container terminal, prompted the government to get it approved by ECNEC.

Earlier, two container terminals known as multipurpose berth (MPB) were set up at Chittagong port at a cost of Taka 400 crore in 1993.

These two terminals have the capacity to handle 1,90,000 containers only.

But at present the number of containers at Chittagong port already exceeded 2,50,000 TEUs, port sources said.

### DMCH in shambles

From Page 1

instruments should be sterilised by autoclave machine (high pressure steam used to disinfect) before use," said a doctor of the department.

Head of the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics Professor Anwara Begum admitted that the department was facing serious problem with inadequate number of operation sets.

"We need more sets to deal with emergency situations that take place almost round the clock."

Professor Abdul Bayes Bhuiyan, former head of the department, who happened to be at the hospital during that time, agreed with Professor Anwara. "This is probably the most important department in the hospital but comparing to its status it literally gets nothing."

"During my tenure, I wrote to the authorities a number of times (for step in this regard) but to no avail."

According to official statistics, about 65 per cent of all emergency operations in the hospital take place at the department alone. Yet the authorities concerned, despite being requested time and again, turned a deaf ear to the calls for improving the facilities.

A doctor, on condition that she not be named, said, "We have been asked to carry out our duties with whatever we have. The administration says that the hospital has limited resources."

When contacted yesterday, the deputy director declined to comment on the allegation.

Last year, a total of 11,206 obstetric and 3,408 gynaecological operations were conducted in the hospital.

There are a total of 33 gynaecologists in the department.

sources and is unable to procure new sets of instruments.

Another source said that at least Tk 10 crore was allocated recently for renovation of the hospital and procurement of small instruments for different departments. But the department has not received any instruments they asked for, to date.

Many doctors at the hospital alleged that deputy director of the hospital Dr Babar Hossain misappropriated funds allocated for renovation work and procurement of instruments in association with the consulting firm contracted for supply and renovation.

When contacted yesterday, the deputy director declined to comment on the allegation.

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## Secret exchange of emissaries India refusing dialogue on Kashmir, says Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, July 3: Pakistan said today India had refused to hold dialogue even after a secret exchange of emissaries by the two sides aimed at ending their current standoff in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, reports Reuters.

"It rejects all dialogue as of now, as of today or yesterday," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said at a news briefing. But he said Pakistan would continue its diplomatic efforts for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The spokesman said India had not yet agreed to a meeting of the directors-general of military operations (DGMOs) of the two sides — a proposal which the Pakistani emissary, former Foreign Secretary Niaz Naik, said he had discussed with the Indian leaders last week.

Asked when the DGMOs could meet, the spokesman, Tariq Altaf, said: "Whenever India is ready." He said Naik had sought "some clarifications" from Indian leaders about a three-point formula Islamabad had proposed last month to ease tensions and the India's public response was that it did not want dialogue.

Earlier, Pakistan Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz said today there had been "no further escalation" of tensions with India over Kashmir.

"There is no further escalation and there is at least an expectation that a de-escalation process may begin," he told reporters on return from an Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Burkina Faso.

"It has not started because firing is still going on the LOC (Line of Control in Kashmir) and activity is still going on."

Replying to a question, Aziz said threat of war breaking out with India had grown slimmer.

"If India were to accept the dialogue route and start at least discussions on the ground situation as to what was happening or who has violated or who is where, then probably the process of de-escalation would start."

"So I will say I am cautiously hopeful. I can't say that I am optimistic at the moment."

The US Ambassador to Pakistan, William B. Milam, said in remarks published today he hoped tension between India and Pakistan over Kashmir would be defused soon.

... We would like to see not

only the situation defused but would very much like to see the Lahore process revived because we believe this holds the key to an eventual resolution of problems in South Asia," Milam was quoted by The News Daily as saying. A Paris report says, Aziz called for UN mediation in the Kashmir conflict with India in an interview published today in the Liberation daily.

"There are huge human rights violations going on in the part of Kashmir occupied by India," said Aziz, demanding that the Delhi authorities "allow a UN envoy in to verify" the claims.

"It is paradoxical to refuse all mediation and to tell everyone 'we are being attacked'. In our view the Indians are using an alibi to suppress all opposition in Kashmir," the minister added.

"India is accepting neither mediation nor observers. I hope that they will come to accept them, because otherwise the situation could spiral out of control. That's the danger which we want to avoid," said Aziz, quizzed on the risk posed by the two feuding nations' possession of the nuclear bomb.

### Ties with Dhaka strong: Holzman

From Page 1

US Ambassador to Bangladesh John C. Holzman yesterday described the US-Bangladesh ties as strong friendship, with bilateral trade and investment expanding to the benefit of the citizens of both the countries, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the US Independence Day, he said the growing Bangladesh-American Community in the United States was an ever more important bridge which was uniting the two nations to further consolidate the friendship existing between them.

"I hope Bangladeshis will join with the Americans in celebrating this joyous day," Holzman said and referred to the stake of both Bangladesh and the United States in further development of democracy and the rule of law in each other's country.

July 4 this year is the 223rd anniversary of the founding of US Republic.

"While Americans are proud of our rich heritage and diversity our grand experiment in democracy remains a work in progress and we strive always to create a more perfect union of states and a community of free men and women," the US Ambassador said in his message.

Meanwhile, local people brought out a procession protesting the alleged killing of Tuku. Later, the processionists went to the DMCH and chanted slogans demanding punishment of the policemen responsible.

Ramna police lodged an unnatural death case in this connection.

### WB on power project

From Page 1

the next 12 years. If we listen to World Bank and discourage private investment, how can we fill up the vacuum?"

Another official, "Besides, the World Bank conditions are too hard for the government to fulfil."

The World Bank will not provide the 600 million dollar credit unless the government fulfils two other major conditions. These are: The government must seek help from a WB consultant in chalking out a power sector policy plan and make the Power Grid Company

of Bangladesh (PGCB) fully operational before the WB agrees on the credit.

The Power Cell in the Energy Ministry is already making a policy plan for the power sector.

"We should include a World Bank consultant in another area of disagreement and we don't want to start formulating the plan all over again," said another official.

"We are not yet sure when the PGCB could be made fully operational. We are working on it. Tagging PGCB with the World Bank credit is not a realistic idea."

"Our government would rather ignore the World Bank and seek credit from other sources. It is true that World Bank's opinion regarding us influences other donors, but we should have alternative sources. The government is getting suppliers' credit for the power sector from different countries. We need a good policy for the suppliers' credit to ensure low project costs," the official said.

Though the power tariff of major private sector projects like the Meghnaghat and Haripur plants would leave a great profit margin for PDB or DESA, such projects would put heavy pressure on the foreign exchange reserve as payments would be made in dollars. That is why WB discourages fresh projects in the private sector.

The World Bank took this clear-cut stand as the government tried to implement a 'crash programme' under which it sought private investment for setting up 500 MW capacity plants. The government ultimately had to withdraw the crash programme under severe criticism from donors.

Talking to this correspondent, some inmates at Tanbazar brothel urged the government to make an arrangement for burial of sex workers. "As human beings, can't we expect a decent burial after a lifelong repression and social vilification?" asked a sex worker.

Authorities of graveyards in Narayanganj refused to allow Mala's body to be buried in there. After several days, the hospital authorities could manage a burial for the decomposed body along with some other unclaimed bodies.

The fate of sex workers coming other than Muslim families is worse. There is no organisation to bury their bodies.

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### Japanese investors now want to relocate units in Bangladesh

TOKYO, July 3: Japanese businessmen find Bangladesh as a favourable destination to set up new industries and relocate units from other Asian countries like Thailand, says a top Japanese business leader.

"Future investment in Bangladesh from Japan is promising. Many investors choose Bangladesh to shift their industries from Thailand," Uwatoko said.

Uwatoko, a leader of Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) told UNB recently.

He quoted a survey carried out by a Japanese business mission in Bangladesh in February this year, saying none of the respondents said that investment in Bangladesh would be a bad decision.

As a member of the mission Uwatoko, who also chairs the Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation (JBCECC), toured industrial areas and EPZs in Dhaka and Chittagong to examine Bangladesh's investment climate.

One third of the people surveyed found Bangladesh's environment promising for investment, said Uwatoko.

He said many Japanese investors now feel that the cost in Thailand is higher and they are planning to relocate their industries in Bangladesh.

The Chamber leader highly appreciated Bangladesh's workforce. "They are good and easily trainable," he said, adding many Japanese companies depend only on Bangladesh executives in their Dhaka bases.

He, however, named inadequate social infrastructure and hartial as major impediments to investment in Bangladesh.

Uwatoko said labour intensive sectors like garments and high tech industries are among the best areas for investment.

He favoured setting up of industries that will use raw materials from Japan. In that context, he said, industries that need heavy raw materials will not be viable.

Asked whether the Japanese investors are showing enough interest in investing in Bangladesh's apparel sector, Uwatoko said, 'Japanese investors suffered a major setback in China's apparel industry. That is why they are now not inclined enough to make further investment abroad in this sector.'

He also pointed to the stagnating economy of Japan that also discourages Japanese investors from taking any further risk.

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Half a million US college students own guns

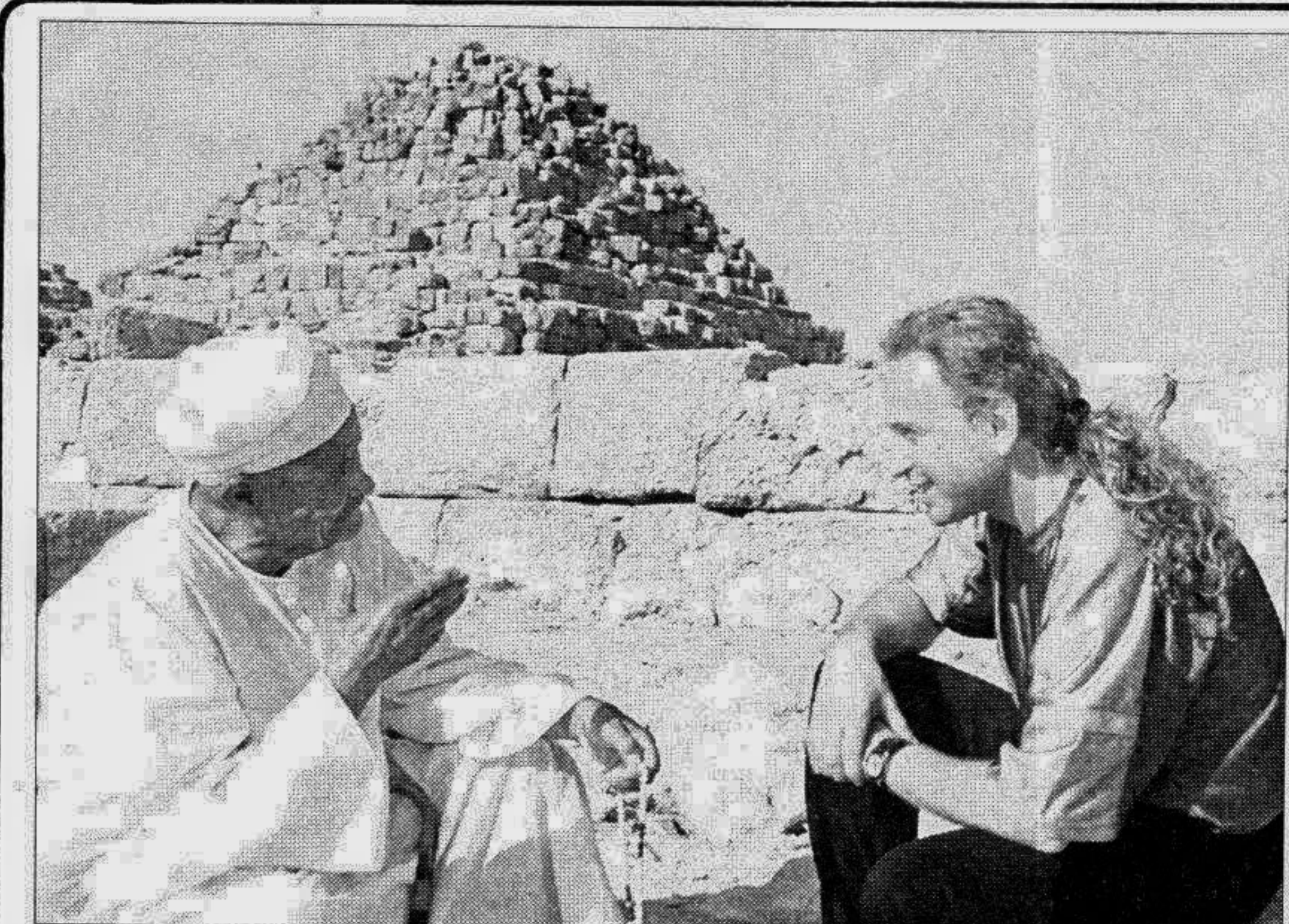
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Editor : Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motiheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net



Egyptian guide Abdel Hamid Abu Steit (L), 85, gives US illusionist Franz Harary a briefing on the history of the half-man half-lion Sphinx, which has stood guard by the Pyramids of Giza outside Cairo for 4,600 years. Harary said yesterday he had succeeded in making the Pharaonic monument 'disappear' for two minutes. — AFP photo

### Sphinx disappears for 2 minutes

CAIRO, July 3: Egypt's mysterious Sphinx, which has stood guard by the Pyramids for 4,600 years, "disappeared" for two minutes today, thanks to US illusionist Franz Harary, reports AFP.

"I am satisfied with the result but it is definitely not what I expected," Franz Harary told AFP after he and his crew stayed up all night to shoot the trick at the Giza plateau south of Cairo.

"We came up against many

obstacles but somehow things lined up into place at the last minute," he said.

The 36-year-old magician said he could not give further details because of a contractual agreement with US television network Fox which will feature the stunt in a magic show in September.

Harary arrived in Cairo on Wednesday initially determined to make the Pyramids disappear using lasers and lights but instead opted for the

Sphinx, a half-man half-lion limestone monument.

Harary built his reputation designing his own illusions and skyrocketed to fame when he began taking on rock music superstars such as Michael Jackson as customers.

In 1994 he mesmerised live US television audiences when he made a space shuttle disappear at the Kennedy Space Center and more recently he levitated the Taj Mahal about 12 metres above the ground.

### BJP chief wants recapture of Kashmir

LUCKNOW (India), July 3: The head of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said today the country should focus on evicting infiltrators from Kashmir with the ultimate aim of recapturing Kashmiri territory under Pakistani control, reports Reuters.

"Not only me, as the BJP chief, but it was the unanimous resolve of the entire parliament to take back that one third part of Kashmir that was under illegal occupation of Pakistan," Kushabhau Thakre said.

"But right now our sole focus is on ensuring the ouster of Pakistani infiltrators from the Indian soil," he told a news conference in the northern city of Lucknow.