

News

Fazilatun Nessa
Gold Medal for
British doctor

A renowned British eye specialist highly praised the role of Begum Mujib yesterday who had silent contributions to all pre-liberation movements and also the emergence of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Prof Gordon Johnson, who was awarded the Begum Fazilatun Nessa Mujib Gold Medal 1999 for his outstanding services for eye treatment throughout the world said, "I feel honoured by receiving the medal associated with the name of a great lady."

Johnson, a Professor in the International Centre for Eye Health, University of London, said he had learned a lot about the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the War of Liberation of Bangladesh and the significance of Begum Mujib during his recent visit to the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim handed over the medal to the renowned professor at a function at the National Institute of Ophthalmology (NIO) in the city.

Dr Osman Faruk was
never alternative
executive director
of World Bank

Dr Osman Faruk, who recently joined the BNP, was never an alternative executive director of the World Bank as reported in some newspapers, World Bank sources said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The sources said Dr Faruk worked for a long time for the Bank as an agriculture economist for South Asia region but he was never an alternative director or alternative executive director as reported during his joining the main opposition party.

Officials said the appointment to the post of executive director or alternative executive director of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the Asian Development Bank is made on the basis of nomination from government of the country concerned.

But Dr Osman was never nominated for any such posts.

Dr Osman Faruk, son of Dr Osman Gani who became a controversial figure for his role in the 1971 liberation war.

2 Shibir leaders
held in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Nov 2: Two leaders of Islami Chhatra Shibir were arrested from Hatem Khan area in the city at noon today.

The arrested are former president of Rajshahi city unit AKM Sarwar Jahan Prince and Rajshahi Govt. College unit president Zahurul Islam Farooque.

They were arrested during a procession protesting Israeli repression on Palestinians.

100 hurt at IU

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ing students at around 5 pm. When he was addressing the students, a contingent of police from Kustia thana arrived at the scene and started beating up the students. They also fired 50 teargas shells and 100 rounds of blank shots to disperse the students, leaving 100 including teachers injured.

The students became violent and hurled stones at the policemen. They damaged 20 buses of the university, set fire to VC's car and ransacked his residence.

The university authorities will hold an emergency meeting at the VC's Kustia residence tomorrow to discuss the latest situation.

StanChart chairman

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press release.
Quoting Patrick, the press release said, "Bangladesh is an increasingly important market for Standard Chartered. The acquisition of Grindlays confirms our long term commitment to Bangladesh and the continuing growth of its economy."

Profile

Sir Patrick Gillam joined the Board of Standard Chartered PLC on 1st August 1988 and became Chairman in May 1993. He is one of the Foreign Office Ambassadors for British Business.

He became non-executive Chairman of the Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Group plc on 9th May, 1997.

He was born in London in 1933 and was educated at Clapham College and the London School of Economics.

He is a Member of the Court of Governors and an Honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics and Political Science.

From 1989 to 1998 he was Chairman of ICC United Kingdom, the British affiliate of the world business organisation.

From 1991 to 1996 he was Chairman of Asda Group PLC. From 1991 to 1996 he was a non-executive director of Commercial Union PLC.

From 1981 to 1991 he was a Managing Director (Board member) of the British Petroleum Company. His career with the BP Group spanned 34 years during which time he was involved in oil supply, crude oil sales, shipping, mining and general commercial matters.

Sir Patrick was awarded a knighthood for services to industry in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 1998 and is married with two children.



A human chain was formed in front of the National Press Club yesterday with a call for launching a social movement against acid-throwers. SHEBA organised the programme to create mass awareness against heinous acid attacks. - Star photo

Sinister seepage

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Diffusion in short is this: all molecules are in constant motion. Hotter molecules are moving faster than cooler molecules. Due to the motion of heat, molecules tend to move from a more concentrated chemical solution to a less concentrated one. As a consequence the concentrated toxic chemicals inside a landfill tend to move through the bottom clay line, even if there is no pressure pushing them downwards.

Interestingly, local experts have contrasting opinions on the danger the seepage from the waste dump poses to the city's water-table.

Professor Feroz Ahmed of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) believes that there is little cause for concern for half a century at the least.

The rate of seepage in Dhaka is rather slow because of the pressure of the 'consolidated' clay layer. Therefore we are safe for another 50 to 60 years before the water-table is contaminated," he said.

He, however, admitted to having evidence of contamination in samples taken from tube-wells near a municipal dumpsite in Dhaka.

Managing Director of the Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) Khondokar

Azharul Haq echoed Professor Ahmed's views.

"The clay layer beneath is very tight. So the infiltration rate is less than five millimetres a day," he said. "Because of the tropical conditions, clay in Bangladesh, in general, is very compact. In fact, random testing of WASA deep tube-well water samples at pump stations near waste dumps found no harmful chemicals or bacteria."

Studies by the Department of Geology of Dhaka University, however, suggest seepage of such a toxic chemical as chromium through compact clay.

Also, several tests conducted by Dr Bilqis Amin Hoque, now a senior sanitation specialist of the World Bank, have found groundwater contamination of varying degrees at different parts of the city, although the results could not be linked to seepage from the waste dumpsites or the sewerage system.

A senior official at the Department of Environment (DoE), requesting anonymity, said, "No layer can protect the water-table from contamination. It can only delay the seepage rate. But speed of contamination can be much quicker than expected."

Referring to the city's biggest waste dumping site in Kazla, Matuati, the official said, "The waste dumping site at Kazla is a low-lying area and the water-table is not too deep. Although

there is no concrete evidence of contamination, we still may not be that far away from a calamity."

Waste concern, an organisation that deals with environmental impact from municipal waste, is of the same opinion.

"Since there is no real research going on here on groundwater contamination by way of seepage from waste sites, we can only compare our situation with similar cases elsewhere," the organisation's general secretary Maqsood Sinha said. "Our studies have shown that fish and plants close to and even far away from waste dumps are dying due to poisonous chemical effects."

A team of American and Canadian scientists, while investigating a five-year old landfill in Ontario, Canada, found a rapid movement of organic chemicals like benzene, toluene, trichloroethylene and ethylbenzene through strong clay.

Geraghty and Miller of Port Washington in New York, one of America's leading hydrology consulting firms under contract with EPA (US Environmental Protection Agency), on careful evaluation of 50 selected sites in 11 states found that 43 of these had contaminated supplies beyond their boundaries. They also found toxic heavy metals at 49 sites and poisoned groundwater off 40 sites.

Jail Killing Day today

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after the killings. But the post-75 governments till 1996 did not take any initiative to try the killers.

After coming to power in 1996, Awami League government revived the case.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted a charge sheet in the case after about two years' investigation, accusing 23 people. Of them, two chargesheeted accused former president Khandakar Mushtaq Ahmed and a former secretary Mahubul Alam Chashi - died.

Eight accused were produced before the court during the proceedings are: Taheruddin Thakur, Shaha Moazzem Hossain, KM Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Monzoor, Lt. Col. (Dismissing) Syed Farooque Rahman, Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Major (Rtd.) Bazul Huda, and Major (Rtd.) Khairuzzaman.

The thirteen absconding accused are: Risalder (Rtd.) Moslemuddin, Lt. Col. (Dismissing) Khondaker Abdur Rashid, Lt. Col. (Relieved) Shariful Haq Dalim, Lt. Col. (Rtd.) SHMB Noor Chowdhury, Major (Rtd.) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, Lt. Col. (Relieved) AM Rashed Chowdhury, Major (Relieved) Ahmed Shariful Hossain, Lt. Col. (Relieved) Abdul Aziz Pasha, Capt. (Rtd.) Abdul Majed, Capt. (Relieved) Nazmul Hossain, Capt. (Relieved) Mohammad Kismat Hashem, Dafadar (Dismissing)

Marfat Ali Shah and Dafadar (Dismissing) Mohammad Abul Hasem.

BSS adds: President Shahabuddin Ahmed in his message said the 'Jail Killing' incident is a shameful chapter in the history of national life and a deplorable event in the history of human civilisation as a whole.

Pioneers of the great War of Liberation were killed on this day in captivity in 1975. "Such brutal killings in safe custody inside the jail is a shameful chapter in the history of national life and deplorable incident in the history of human civilisation as a whole," he said.

The President said the right to rule the country with people's mandate is a well-recognised system across the globe. Nobody could attain the love of people by killing their elected representatives. Rather, the killers will always remain as hated persons.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said, "We have to be respectful to law and remain tolerant in the process of growth of democracy. To undermine anybody for political differences is not desirable for progress of democratic polity."

UNB adds: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message said her government is committed to hold trial of all political killings and establish permanent peace in the country as desired by people.

The Prime Minister observed that people's respect for law and justice was increasing gradually

with the beginning of the trial of all political killings.

She said in the process of establishing rule of law, the government has repealed the infamous Indemnity Act and the court has pronounced a historic verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Hasina paid rich tributes to the memory of four national leaders and said such barbaric killing in the custody of law is rare in the history of mankind.

She said the killing was part of a deep-rooted conspiracy to throw the nation into a leadership crisis as the four national leaders played key role in all previous movements for democracy.

"The Jail Killing Day is the most hateful day in the history of democracy in the country," she added.

The Prime Minister said the sacrifice of the four national leaders would always inspire the nation in the path of truth and justice.

She said the four national leaders strengthened the hands of Bangabandhu in all previous movements, right from the Language Movement to the preparation of the Liberation War.

"But they were killed in continuation of the brutal killing of the father of the nation on August 15, 1975," the PM said.

She said the nation would never forget the contributions of the four national leaders.



Samajtantrik Chhatra Front took out a procession from the Dhaka University yesterday protesting the irregularities in allotment of seats at the Eden College hostel. The procession paraded different city streets and ended at the National Press Club. -Star photo

WP Congress
Pak team denied
visa

By Staff Correspondent

Representatives of Pakistan Communist Party (PCP) could not attend the sixth Congress of Bangladesh Workers Party owing to visa complications.

The Workers Party learnt about the matter after the delegation failed to arrive at ZIA yesterday as scheduled. PCP informed them that they had been denied visa to attend the congress at Rajshahi.

Central Committee of the party expressed their deep anguish at the incident, as they had formally corresponded with both the Foreign and Home Ministry about it. Also it was the first time that representatives from Pakistan Communist Party had been invited to the event.

The Congress desk further informs that Indian CPM Leader and Chairman of Left-front Shailen Dasgupta and State Minister of the West Bengal government Upen Kishu will arrive day after tomorrow to attend the Congress.

PM: Azam

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all is sincere to hold the rally.

The prime minister refuted an allegation made by Chittagong Hill Districts Council Chairman Shantu Larma that her government is breaching the CHT peace accord signed nearly three years ago.

"We're doing everything according to the agreement and have made a lot of progress. Nowhere in the world has a peace deal been implemented in so fast," she said. She added that such accords in Ireland and the Philippines are yet to be fully implemented.

About Larma's reported threat to launch an agitation programme against the government, Hasina said none would be able to create anarchy in the CHT any more because the people in the hill tracts have tasted peace.

UNB adds: Earlier Hasina described her talks with Kuwaiti leaders, including acting Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as productive.

She said the Kuwaiti government would sympathetically consider setting up of an oil refinery while the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has expressed willingness for investment in social sector.

About the signing of technical cooperation agreement on exchange of labour, the prime minister said it would pave the way for fresh recruitment of Bangladeshi workers after a one-year suspension on manpower export.

She said Kuwait has also agreed to finance river dredging in Bangladesh.

Asked about the enforcement of the labour agreement with Kuwait signed during her visit, Hasina said the accord would be enforced with its ratification soon. Henceforth, there is no restriction on export of manpower to Kuwait and virtually it has started, she added.

Replying to a question, she said as many as 53 Bangladeshi soldiers were killed while in duty in the UN peacekeeping missions in different countries. A total of 49,289 Bangladeshi soldiers served the UN peacekeeping missions so far, she added.

Bangladesh wants that innocent people, including women and children, should not suffer under the protracted UN sanctions of Iraq, Hasina told another question.

About Bangladesh's position on the Palestine-Israeli issue, Hasina said Dhaka always supports Palestinian brethren and stands for legitimate rights and independent land of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

Bid to hijack
truck foiled

By Staff Correspondent

Police foiled a bid to hijack a truck loaded with imported items in the city today.

A gang of armed miscreants intercepted a container truck from Chittagong at the intersection of Shantinagar and Rajarbagh police lines at 1.15 am, according to sources.

The gang assaulted the driver and helper of the truck and took it away.

The truck was carrying goods of Carrymen Limited, an enterprise of Dressmen group of Companies.

The injured driver and helper informed the Motijheel thana about the incident which immediately alerted all police stations in the city. The truck was seen moving at Uttara after an hour.

Police chased the truck and stopped it at Tongi bridge. The truck rammed a number of minibuses during the chase.

BB: Big loans

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that a number of banks have excessively exposed themselves to huge amount of loans given to a few borrowers.

"This is a dangerous situation for any bank," said an official. "If a few borrowers take the lion's share of the credit and if any of them go bad, then the financial health of the bank can go down sharply."

At the same time, if banks spend their funds behind big borrowers, small loans will be squeezed," the official added.

According to the new policy, if a bank wants to cross the ceiling, it can send the case to the central bank. Banks with existing big loans beyond the ceiling will also have to reduce these in stages.

Car bomb blast

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lances swarmed to the scene.

It was unclear whether the truce announcements were still forthcoming. Previous cease-fire agreements, including one brokered by President Clinton last month, did not hold, with each side accusing the other of violating commitments.

Earlier in the day, Israel pulled back from friction points and Palestinian police restrained rock throwers first tentative steps to carry out the truce agreement.

Near Netzarim, police bundled several dozen stone throwers in trucks and drove them away. Israel pulled back tanks from several spots in the Gaza Strip, including the Karni Crossing, where eight Palestinians were killed in two days of fierce gun battles. Israel also lifted its siege of several West Bank towns, including Nablus, Bethlehem and Hebron. Within a few hours, Palestinians were to be able to move freely in the West Bank, said Brig Gen Ron Kitzrey, the Israeli army spokesman.

Israeli and Palestinian troop commanders and lower-level officers held a series of talks in the West Bank and Gaza to work out the details of the truce.

Despite the moves toward restraint, violence persisted in some spots. A 17-year-old Palestinian was killed in a rock-throwing clash with Israeli troops in the West Bank village of Hizme, near Jerusalem, and Palestinian gunmen fired on Israeli positions in the West Bank town of Hebron, drawing return fire. Clashes also

broke out in the Gaza Strip.

The conflict here erupted September 28 in the West Bank and Gaza, the two heavily Palestinian territories that the Palestinians want as part of an independent state. Since then, more than 160 people have died in fighting most Palestinians and thousands have been injured.

Peres and Arafat's meeting late Wednesday at the Palestinian leader's Gaza City office was the first high-level meeting between the sides since the conflict erupted.

"We hope we shall have two or three days without funerals," Peres told Associated Press Television News. "We shall return to normalise the situation in the territories and return to peace talks."

Palestinian peace negotiator Nabil Shaath said that according to the truce agreement, Israel would gradually lift its closure of Palestinian areas, permit Palestinian workers to return to jobs in Israel and open Gaza International Airport, as well as border crossings with Egypt and Jordan. Such restrictions have cost the Palestinian economy about \$4 million a day, the UN relief agency for Palestinian refugees said Wednesday.

In an apparent call for calm, the Palestinian Information Ministry said in a statement that "the Palestinian leadership asks our Palestinian people and all our national forces to forge a united stand and express ourselves peacefully in all circumstances in our national struggle."

Ruling party raring

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Bangladesh will play their maiden Test match against India beginning on November 10.

The BNP-led four-party opposition alliance was also denied permission to hold a 'grand rally' at the same venue to mark the 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day' on November 7.

AL insiders said the central working committee at a meeting on October 14 decided to go for a massive public gathering on November 3.

Besides, AL is scheduled to hold its next central working committee meeting on November 6, a day ahead of the planned 'grand rally' of the opposition parties.

Meanwhile, the ruling party held a series of meetings for the last couple of days in preparation of the 'big rally' on November 3 Jail Killing Day.

Opposition rally

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Finally, all the sides agreed to call a hartal on November 7 to protest cancellation of the public holiday on the day and restriction on holding of the rally at Paltan Maidan.

However, briefing newsmen after yesterday's CLC meeting, BNP Vice Chairman M Shamsul Islam MP said that the alliance would hold its rally at Paltan Maidan as per schedule and that preparations for the programme were going on in full swing.

He said the cricket match is a "lame cause". The government did not give permission to hold the rally as it is scared of the current movement, he said.

The meeting was attended by BNP leaders Mirza Abbas and Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, JP leaders Kazi Firoz Rashid, Mostafa Jamal Haider and Saifur Rahman, Jamaat leaders Mohammad Karamuzzaman, Ali Ahsan Mujahid, ATM Azharul Islam and Abdul Qader Mollah and IOJ leaders ARM Abdul Matin and Muslehuddin Abu Bakar.

A senior BNP leader told this correspondent that party hardliners and some leaders of the other component parties favoured holding of the rally at Paltan Maidan at any cost.

But the liberal leaders opposed this.

EC starts
election
process

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission yesterday reviewed its existing strength and other issues relating to the general elections to be held by October next year.

A high level meeting chaired by acting Chief Election Commissioner Abdur Rahman focussed on the voter list, finalised on October 26.

The meeting was informed that the process of voter list printing was underway and the printed one would be available by the year end, EC sources said.

The commission would also complete its initial activities for the voters' database by that time.

"The EC is getting ready for the next general election," an official said. "Preparation of the new voter list was the most complicated task and it was done successfully. Now we have to do other things," he added.

The issues discussed at yesterday's meeting included procurement of election materials, settlement of disputes, progress of work in district election offices and voters' identity cards.

Election Commissioners Mushtaq Ahmed Chowdhury and Saifur Rahman and high officials of the EC attended the meeting.

Chief Election Commissioner Abu Sayed is now on an official visit to the United States.

As per Constitutional provisions, the present government would hand over power to a Caretaker Government in July next year for holding the election.

Diplomats

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check or seize diplomatic luggage.

Customs officials earlier said that the containers were seized following verbal permission from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as there were no prior intimation from the embassies regarding the containers and none came to take delivery.

Weights of the containers were also not as mentioned in the papers, they had said. The containers addressed to Hasan and Basham of Iraqi embassy contained goods worth Tk 2.92 crore and Tk 3.78 crore respectively.

The containers addressed to Garsia and Wang Chuk contained goods worth Tk 1.73 crore and Tk 3.24 crore respectively.

Jamaat Ameer

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the War of Liberation, expressed his willingness to resign as party chief on health ground at a meeting of Majlis-e-Shura on October 21.

The members (Rukun) of the party from different districts will now elect a new chief through secret balloting from a three-member panel that have already been announced.

Jamaat Secretary General Motiur Rahman Nizami, Abul Kalam Muhammad Yusuf and Delwar Hossain Sayeedi are the three members of the panel. Party members can cast their votes to one of three leaders or anyone of the party as per their choices.

According to the party constitution, Jamaat-e-Islami elects an Amir for a three-year term and Golam Azam's tenure expired this year as he was elected for the 1997-2000 period.

When contacted Jamaat's publicity secretary Abdul Kader Mollah said that the result of the election would be available by third week of the current month.

An election commission, formed earlier in this regard, will announce the result.

Political insiders said the Jamaat politics faced serious setback in the last couple of years with Golam Azam, an alleged war criminal, as the party chief.

A section of leaders and activists reportedly want a new, non-controversial leadership to gear up the party activities and make it people-friendly, they pointed out.



সোনালী ব্যাংক

প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা

জনসংযোগ বিভাগ

২০০১ সালের ৪,৫০,০০০ (চার লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) দেয়াল ক্যালেন্ডার ও ১০,০০০ (দশ হাজার) খাম মুদ্রণ ও সরবরাহের দরপত্র।

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উপ-সহাব্যবস্থাপক