

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 Ganti 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 yesterday.

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

They were arrested during a procession protesting the killing of Palestinians.

100 hurt at IU

From Page 1
ing students at around 5 pm. When he was addressing the students, a contingent of police from Kushtia 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 Kushtia residence tomorrow to discuss the latest situation.

StanChart chairman

From Page 1
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 Gillane 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 1996 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.

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 Dashgupta and State Minister of the West Bengal government Upen Kishu will arrive day after tomorrow to attend the Congress.

PM: Azam

From Page 1
all is sincere to hold the rally.

The prime minister refused 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.

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 ethyl-benzene through strong clay.

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, Matual, 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."

Wastecconcern, 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."

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Car bomb blast

From Page 1
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 Karri 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 Kitay, 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 truce, 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 Hizne, near Jerusalem, and Palestinian gunmen fired on Israeli positions in the West Bank town of Hebron, drawing return fire. Clashes also

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